REVERIES OF THE HEART.

REVERIES
OF THE
HEART;
DURING
A TOUR
THROUGH PART OF
ENGLAND and *FRANCE:*
IN A SERIES OF
LETTERS TO A FRIEND.

VOL. II.

NIL DESPERANDUM GEORGIO DUCE.

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LETTER XXXVIII.

Hallifax.

WILL you then, my charming young lady, allow me to conduct you to London? I was juſt beginning to ſay this to one of the faireſt pieces of nature's handy-work; and, to ſay the truth, was not much afraid of a refuſal, when the waiter ſuddenly opening the door, broke my propoſal and a china diſh he had in his hand to fritters in a moment. "'Tis very unlucky, ſaid I;" "Yes, Sir, ſaid he; (riſing after his fall) but

I muſt find a new one." "Pſhaw! you have made me pay for it;" the young lady having moved away from me. We were ſtanding before his entrance in the moſt ſociable attitude that Plato could have invented had he been with us; and, be aſſured, we had no other companion. You may wonder how I gained ſuch an attitude with a perfect ſtranger. Take the ſtory at full length.

My friend had gone forward to the next ſtage, and I found that I muſt ſtay dinner at an inn here. I therefore went to view the town: now, as there is nothing in the large town of Halliſax worth looking at, the ſtreets being narrow and crooked, and the houſes like the ſpots on a cheſs-board, good and bad alternately, a mixture that however pleaſing in the

the works of nature, has but a bad effect in a city, the greateſt production of art; and having viewed the romantic hills with which it is environed, in deſcending one of their precipices, over which the roads are ſo wiſely carried hereabouts, I ſoon grew tired of my ramble. I therefore returned unwillingly to the inn, and was ſhewn into a room where the lady I have mentioned ſtood, looking ſeemingly to find ſome object in the ſtreet whereon ſhe might fix her attention, equally languid and unſatisfied with my own. An excellent frame of mind for an intereſting tete-a-tete, no external object to obſtruct that mutual communication of the finer feelings and ſentiments, which delight in quiet and retirement. In ſuch a ſituation two

perſons inſtantly become as one, from the neceſſity each feels of receiving entertainment from the other. I found out her connections, education, and that ſhe was going to Leeds to viſit ſome relations, in leſs time than otherwiſe would have been taken up in commenting on the weather and time of the day. The mind when freed from ceremonious forms, makes a rapid progreſs to acquaintance and friendſhip.

It was not the ſimplicity of her dreſs, a muſlin gown, exquiſitely flowered by her own hands; it was not her fair beautiful locks, untortured by a frizeur's art, and without a ſingle wandering hair to diſcover the tawdrineſs of modern faſhion; it was not the luſtre of her fine complexion far excelling the dead alabaſter of our whitened city dames;

it

it was not her uncommonly elegant height, and the exact ſymmetry of her perſon, at every motion diſplaying its native graces; it was not the moſt beauteous face that nature ever formed, adorned with delicately vermilioned cheeks, and eyes, whoſe clear mildneſs ſeemed formed to captivate every beholder's heart; it was not one nor all of theſe that attracted me to her, but it was that native candour, that unaffected modeſty, that ſweet, innocent, unſuſpicious ſimplicity which ſhone through every word and action. It was very different from that frankneſs, bounded by proper reſerve, which diſtinguiſhes the behaviour of the moſt amiable women of faſhion; yet ſhe could not be ſaid to be unguarded, as no wandering unruly thought ſeemed to

require a centinel to keep it in. She was born and educated in the country, and therefore had no knowledge of the various wiles of artful ſeducing man.

What pity! I hear you ſay, that ſo ſweet and fair a flower, ſo fit to adorn the moſt elevated ſtations, ſhould bloom and fade unheeded in the country, or be cropt by ſome wealthy boor's unmannered hand. I thought the ſame, and could not avoid telling her ſo. "London, I ſaid, was the only place where a due regard would be paid to ſo many charms, and ſuch elegant accompliſhments;" for I had found out that ſhe was a miſtreſs of muſic, ſung delightfully, had a natural genius for painting, and had read more than could have been expected; in one ſo young." In the country, I continued, ſhe could only expect

pect to paſs a life juſt above vegetation; or, what was worſe, where the refinement of her feelings would be every day hurt by a coarſeneſs if not brutality of manners, that her taſte for muſic would not make her fond of the cackling of poultry, or grunting of hogs; that in fine the clumſy maſculine aukward roſy wench (who had, luckily for my argument, juſt paſſed the window) would make a more valuable wife than ſhe could, to any man reſiding in the country; where the chief cauſes of her unfitneſs for that ſpecies of life, would ariſe from her delicacy of ſentiment, and exquiſite beauty.

LETTER XXXIX.

Hallifax.

"HOW could you pay ſo many compliments to a country laſs?" you ſay. "I never before took you for a flatterer!" In the preſent caſe I was guiltleſs of flattery, every word I ſaid coming from the heart. What advantage can there be in concealing the mind, where a man's intentions are fair and honeſt? or ſhall ſocial converſation be fettered as if we were giving evidence in a court of juſtice, or anſwering queries in the inquiſition. The warm flow of love or friendſhip animating the heart, diſdains the ties cooly laid down in the

the cloſet; and provided nothing criminal mixes with our paſſions, why, I pray you, are we to deprive ourſelves of the pleaſures ariſing from their indulgence. "Then you were bewitched, you ſay." That might well happen, as the girl was a Lancaſhire one; but her ſorcery was very fair, and ſuch only as the greateſt princeſs might be happy in being able to uſe. The truth is, ſince I left York, the genial vernal breezes enamoured with the plains, murmur their kindeſt welcome to the opening buds and flowers: returning health ſeems to make larger ſtrides; the exerciſe invigorates my whole frame; I ſeem to tread in air; and my mind, enlivened by the proſpects and ſcenes I have enjoyed,

bounds

bounds forward with an alacrity I never experienced before.

On my finiſhing the laſt ſpeech, ſhe ſeemed to be thinking of making an inclination of her body in thanks for my politeneſs; but innate modeſty checked her from the vanity which might have appeared in accepting the compliment. A gentle ſuffuſion of the countenance, and ſcarcely perceptible glance of the eye, alone confeſſed that ſhe was ſenſible of it. I went on, "But in London, my ſweet girl, the caſe is very different. There all perſons, let their tempers and purſuits be what they will, may find congenial ſpirits, in whoſe ſociety the current of life will run pleaſurably along. There no moments of yawning langour are to be dreaded, as every

every ſmalleſt ſpace of time may be filled uſefully, or with rational amuſement." A ſlight half-breathed ſigh ſeemed here to acknowledge that time had not always paſt ſo enviably in the company of the old relation with whom ſhe lived. I feared I had ſtruck upon a diſcordant ſtring, and ſincerely pitied her if it was love; I found afterwards I was miſtaken. "Conſider, added I, your muſical accompliſhments will ſoon make you known, and your company univerſally ſought after in a metropolis where every ſpecies of merit is ſure of finding a reward; you will likewiſe have an opportunity of perfecting yourſelf under the beſt maſters in that art of painting, or rather counterfeiting nature, which ſeems ſo peculiarly your talent. The various

places

places of public reſort will give frequent opportunities of diſplaying your numberleſs charms to the beſt advantage; your advantageous height cannot fail of attracting attention, and the love of ſome gentleman of ſuperior fortune muſt at length be the juſt reward of ſo much beauty and merit."

Whilſt I uttered this a brighter ſuffuſion played upon her countenance, and the tremulous motion of her breath ſhewed that what I had ſaid made a deep impreſſion on her mind. She replied, however, that all had not been happy who went to London, "True, my dear young lady, ſaid I, when young women, without proper intentions, or with only youth and beauty to recommend them, go there, we are not to be ſurpriſed if their raſh imprudence meets with miſ-

miſcarriage and diſappointment. But with ſo much virtue and good ſenſe to guard your other charms, I have not the leaſt doubt that you may ſoon ſhine in that ſphere to which you are ſo well entitled; careſſed by all the valuable part of both ſexes. And though, ſaid I, (taking her unreſiſting hand, which ſeemed ſpontaneouſly to fall towards me) I have but few female acquaintances in London, yet, on applying to them, I doubt not I ſhall find one worthy benevolent lady, who will take the charge of introducing you into the moſt deſireable company, the virtuous of your own amiable ſex.

A gentle inclination of her head towards me, her unſettled eye timidly yet ſwiftfully caſt the ſame way, and

and a ſlight tremor of her hand which I gently preſſed in mine, all told me, that ſhe expected an offer of my aſſiſtance to complete my own ſcheme.

I have but to return to Leeds, ſaid I to myſelf, and there take the whole diligence to London; for no third perſon ſhall interrupt the harmony of our converſation. It will not coſt me ſo much as I had before ſet apart for my tour, and moſt chearfully will I alter its deſtination and my own, to confer an obligation upon ſo deſerving a creature; with what pleaſure ſhall I gain her the neceſſary patronage of ſome of my female acquaintances, and how ſhall I exult on ſeeing her married to a man whoſe ſenſe can diſtin-

diſtinguiſh her value, and whoſe fortune can ſet it in a conſpicuous light. Theſe thoughts took me up not a moment, and I was juſt going to make the propoſal with which I began laſt my letter, when the mal-a-propos enterance of the waiter, broke the chain of my thoughts and harangue, together with his own earthen ware, in an inſtant. He ſtaid long enough in the room to give me time to reflect more cooly than I had been hitherto able, on account of my unexpected encounter with ſo much excellence.

LET-

LETTER XL.

Halifax.

HOW often are the paſſions of an individual the ſport of circumſtances trifling in themſelves, and apparently unconnected with the events produced by them. The great changes of a nation are ſaid by ſome hiſtorians to be brought about in the ſame way, and the peace of Utrecht is quoted as one among numberleſs examples of this fact. Avaunt the writings of ſuch ſimpletons, their pages are only fit to be read by the miniſters who have loſt us America, who having not the ſmalleſt knowledge of nature or her works, think they can rule mankind without the the leaſt reſpect to their paſſions, inclinations,

clinations, or one trait in their character. They juſtly reprobate all hiſtory, except the ſeven champions of Chriſtendom, and the manufactured tales of M'Pherſon and Dalrymple, with other romances, from whence they borrow their own notions of war and government.

But leaving ſuch trifling ſubjects, let us return to my own important adventures at the inn, where the fraca's made by the waiter produced an event with which it ſeemed in no way connected, that was the reſtoration of my ſenſes! It was not the accident of the plates bringing to my mind the uncertain ſtate of all ſublunary things, nor that the brittleneſs of china ſeemed to have the ſmalleſt reſemblance to the lady, up-

on whoſe truth I could already have pawned my life, if it were worthy of becoming ſecurity for one of the lovelieſt women upon earth; but another circumſtance in the adventure that made a total revolution in my mode of thinking. This I ſhall explain to you in the next letter, in the very words I made uſe of to the lady.

LETTER XLI.

Hallifax.

I HAVE already mentioned that on the entrance of the waiter the lady withdraw from me. This circumſtance affected me at firſt with a poignant chagrin, but afterwards gave a new turn to my ideas, and threw me into a fit of muſing, which laſted even ſome time after we were left alone. So ſoon as I had recovered ſufficient tranquility from the conflict, I drew near to the lady again, and addreſſing her with the utmoſt reſpect, ſaid, " That I was extremely fortunate in the waiter's accident having given me time to re-

flect upon a propoſal I had intended to make of conveying her to London. I called myſelf fortunate becauſe had ſhe condeſcended to ſecond my well meant intentions, yet ſtill if any thing ſiniſter had happened to her, I ſhould have been extremely unhappy, as ſhe might be aſſured I took a lively intereſt in her welfare. "Conſider, then, my dear lady, added I, that female reputation is ſo tender a flower, that it is blighted by the ſlighteſt breath of calumny, and that in this cenſorious world it is often leſs neceſſary, for our temporal happineſs, to avoid evil than the ſlighteſt appearance of it. After the proof I have juſt had of your ſenſibility in withdrawing your hand on the entrance of a third perſon, and that only a ſervant, I am convinced

convinced that I need not intereſt the timid delicacy which I perceive you eminently poſſeſs, to convince you how improper it would be in us to go together to London."

A glance of the eye from me to the earth, ſhewed that I had not overrated my own perſuaſive powers in thinking that I might have prevailed upon her to have accompanied me. Yet fearing to offend that timid reſerve which is ſo beautiful in females of her tender years, and which is a much better defence than pride that courts a trial, though it often fails in the conflict, and perceiving an unſteady penſiveneſs in her appearance, I went on, without giving her time to reply:

" In ſuppoſing that I might have prevailed upon you to pay a viſit to your friends in London, be aſſured that I did not wiſh to feed my own vanity with an unmerited compliment. My happineſs likewiſe is too much connected with your's for me to have the ſmalleſt wiſh to deceive myſelf into believing that I ſhould have been ſucceſsful. I only give credit to the ſincere rectitude of my intentions, which I was perſuaded muſt have had its weight with your obvious candour, and diſtinguiſhed good ſenſe. Your welfare and future proſperity was my ſole aim, in attending to which I as much forgot my own ſhare in the matter, as I did the hat-caſes or trunks that muſt have accompanied us to town."

Her

Her faultering eye became now more aſſured, her varying countenance leſs clouded, and I was not chagrined at the ſecond entrance of the waiter, whoſe former interruption embarraſſed me ſo much. His preſence now had a contrary tendency, and gave reaſon opportunity to be more clear, reſolution more deciſive.

LETTER XLII.

Hallifax.

DURING the time of dinner, and afterwards whilſt in company with others, the innocent undiſguiſed livelineſs of her converſation, with the thouſand native charms and unaffected graces, which every varying attitude and motion diſplayed, ſerved to ſhew me the danger I had run, and to confirm my previous determination. Once in my life reaſon borrowed ſtrength from my paſſions inſtead of having that unequal combat with them we ſo often ſee, which always brings to my view a pigmy fighting with a giant.

Still,

Still, however, there remained in part the difficulty of returning from elyſium, deſcribed by that egregious courtezan Virgil, who flattered Alexis, Auguſtus, and other men, whilſt he treated Dido and Lavinia with the indifference of a proſtitute. As I ſeldom hide my thoughts, and leaſt of all where others do it moſt, that is, with the fair ſex, who not having it in their power to bring us to a gentleman-like ſatisfaction when we utter a falſhood, are entitled to the ſtricteſt truth from every man of real courage; I, therefore, when left alone with the lady, went on to diſcloſe my ſentiments, and to extricate myſelf from the ſituation unto which the precipitancy of my affections unwarily had hurried me.

" Man,

" Man, ſaid I, may juſtly be called Paſſion's fool; and there is perhaps none more worthy of the cap and bells than myſelf. How elſe could I have paſſed over the objections to my accompanying you to town? The impreſſion made upon me in ſo ſudden a manner by your numberleſs excellencies, would not have been the ſmalleſt difficulty I ſhould have had to withſtand. And though this world has been by many called a ſtate of trial, yet, believe me, my deareſt lady, it is much ſafer to fly from than encounter danger. I ſay this with all due deference to the heroines of romance, or thoſe equally courageous dames, whom we ſee every day at the places of public reſort in London, putting to open defiance the paſſions of human nature, though armed with

with muſic, dancing, dreſs, gaiety, and all their moſt powerful, all their moſt ſeducing weapons. When I at firſt painted to you the delights of London, I kept out of the portrait, the hurry, noiſe, and dirtineſs of its ſtreets, its ſmokey unhealthful air, the ſimulation, perhaps diſſimulation, of its inhabitants, together with the thouſand ſnares and dangers to which youth, beauty, and inexperience are daily expoſed. In the country it is true, the circle of our acquaintance will be ſmall, but friendſhip, a tie unknown in capitols, will bind it to you with an indiſſoluble chain. Your amuſements will be few, but the participation of thoſe you love will give a reliſh to them, which cannot be beſtowed by a mixed London rout; for all of whom you have neither eſteem

nor

nor affection. Your ears will not be ſhocked with rude indelicate expreſſions, nor your eyes with ſights indecent and unſeemly. When you marry, the attention of the man you love will not be divided with coffee-houſe acquaintances, tavern clubs, and gambling ſocieties. Your family cares will be repaid with reſpect and affection, and will leave you no vacant drowſy hour, like thoſe in the city, when we are glad to fly to any amuſement, in order ſhun our own thoughts. In fine, health and innocence, like yeaſt, will add ſtrength to your frame, beauty to your countenance, and ſpirits to your mind; giving a ſprightly reliſh to all your enjoyments, and driving away from you all dull vapid moments, the fouleſt dregs of miſ-ſpent time.

LET-

LETTER XLIII.

Hallifax.

WHEN the chaiſe came to the door, which was to carry the lady onward, I experienced all thoſe uneaſy ſenſations we feel in parting with a valued friend, whom we fear never to ſee again, and did not heſitate to tell her ſo. To get rid of his diſagreeable idea, ſhe gave me her addreſs, and accepted of mine; promiſing in a low voice, and with the ſofteſt ſweeteſt accent, that if ſhe ever came to London, I ſhould have permiſſion to viſit her. My emotion was too great to allow of many words, and on my handing her into the

the carriage I perceived her eyes fill with the kindly moiſture of humanity, and found one gentle drop fall upon my hand. I could not utter one ſingle adieu.

" Sweet dew of ſenſibility, ſaid I, caſting upon it my eyes, which had followed the chaiſe as long as it was in ſight; thou haſt not fallen upon an ungrateful ſoil, thy kindred influence ſhall ſerve to nouriſh in my ſoul thoſe gentler ſofter paſſions the genuine production of heaven, from whence thou haſt fallen. I could for ever have wiſhed to detain it there; but ſeeing it faſt drying up, I deſired to preſerve to myſelf ſome token of the amiableneſs of its author; ſhall I wipe thee off, ſaid I, and preſerve the cambrick to bring

bring her excellencies to my mind? it will ſoon be ſoiled, and an unfit repreſentation of her purity. At laſt I kiſſed it away; I felt it penetrate my heart, Oh! may thy truth ever ſit enthroned on my lips; thy gentleneſs ever rule my boſom; ſo ſhall the eſteem of good men be my portion here; and the love, the honour, the benediction of all mankind follow me hereafter.

LET-

LETTER XLIV.

Rochdale.

I LEFT Hallifax in no lively frame of mind; and, to add to my chagrin, found that the ſide of the diligence which I wiſhed to have ſat on was occupied by an old man of no very promiſing appearance. We uttered not a word for the firſt mile, until coming to the top of a high hill I could not avoid ſaying to my companion, that there was a romantic proſpect. "To dry cloaths upon." replied he, looking at ſome tenter-grounds that were by the ſide of the road. I ſtared: as I had broken the ice, however, I went on by aſking

ing what the queen was juſt deliver-ed of? "Freſh eggs," ſaid he, viewing a country wench with a baſ-ket on her head, who was juſt paſſ-ing the chaiſe. To ſtifle an almoſt irreſiſtable fit of laughter, and ſet him right, I told him I was ſpeak-ing of the number of princes or princeſſes with which this nation is bleſſed. "They are five a penny, here, ſaid he, (ſtill looking at the girl) but are dearer in other places." Here my gravity totally forſook me. I found I had a deaf man for my companion; yet what might at another time have been deemed a misfortune, was now in reality of the utmoſt uſe, as the drollery of his miſtakes in a moment diſſipated that liſtleſſneſs and chagrin with which I

got into the carriage; and which might, notwithſtanding all my efforts, have preyed upon my ſpirits for a conſiderable length of time.

LET-

LETTER XLV.

Rochdale.

HAD I been the philoſopher who ſaid that he could have taught God to make a better world, I —— here I ſtopped. This converſation paſſed in aſcending a high bleak hill covered with heath, on this ſide of Hallifax. But as you know I never ſpeak, and I hope never think, of the Supreme Being but with the utmoſt reverence, not at all joining with thoſe who bring him down to their own level, or even below it, making him only the miniſter and ſervant of their own paſſions and reſentments: ſee the late proclamation for a faſt, where har-

dened ſinners, like me, who cannot pray for the liberty of cutting throats, are in a moſt excellent climax threatened with the wrath and indignation of Almighty God, and ſuch pains and penalties as the king may inflict; nor one of thoſe who paint him to themſelves as ſitting, eating, drinking, or perhaps ſmoaking tobacco with ſuch reptiles as us. As I am neither the one nor the other of theſe, I was obliged to make a pauſe.—Were I ſo great an ideot, I went on, as, like ſome who have been nick-named philoſophers, to ſet my knowledge in competition with the Supreme, I might queſtion the wiſdom of placing this hill here. 'Tis ſo barren that it brings want and wretchedneſs to our mind; it occupies the place of land that might be

be turned to good account; and deforms, by its conſpicuous rugged head, the face of this beautiful country.

We have uſually one motive for our words and actions, which we hold forth to the world, and another which we keep cloſe to ourſelves; happy in the idea, that it is ſo cunningly hid behind our maſk, that no one can perceive it. The one is always fair, honourable, and generous; the other is moſtly ſome little petty point of ſelf-intereſt or pitiful paſſion, which we enjoy with greater pleaſure, becauſe it is dallied with in ſecret. I hate ſneaking into a corner with ſuch reaſons; it is like a gentleman privately making a companion of a cinder-wench. So lie you there, maſk. The

grand reaſon why the hill diſpleaſed me was, that it retarded the carriage very much, and I was in great haſte to be at Rochdale.

LET-

LETTER XLVI.

Rochdale.

WHEN I arrived at the mountain's top, I unſaid every word I had uttered. The varied proſpect of the fertile vallies and diſtant towns, which it afforded, plainly ſhewed how poor, flat, and inſipid a continued plain muſt appear. I remembered the ſenſations that had been excited in me by travelling thro' the Netherlands; how different from the preſent, where my ideas ſeemed elevated with my ſituation to the very clouds. That philoſopher muſt ſurely have been born blind, or never have been out of Holland, who endeavoured to perſuade us that the earth was originally one uniform

ſphere, and only on account of our ſins became at the flood ſtudded with thoſe excreſcences called mountains. A delightful world the antideluvians muſt have had; no hills, no vallies, no winding purling ſtreams, no magnificent ſweeping rivers, no calm lakes nor terrible ſeas to varigate the ſtill-life ſcene of drowſy uniformity. For my own part, I have been often mooniſh in my inclinations ever ſince I heard that the mountains in that globe are thrice as high as our's; and muſt confeſs I would prefer a Scotch world, all carbuncled with hills, to the plaineſt ſmootheſt one that ever was depicted by conjectural preſumption or madneſs, under the diſguiſe of philoſophy.

LET-

LETTER XLVII.

Rochdale.

ON meeting my friend again, I related my converſation with the charming Lancaſhire girl; he ſighed and congratulated me upon it. I could not conceive how parting with an agreeable creature, whom I might never ſee again, deſerved his felicitation. It was not the circumſtance he ſaid, but my feelings upon it that he envied. Thoſe feelings, alas! were long dead in him, and he was perfectly ſenſible how neceſſary an eſteem for the ſex was to our happineſs. To parry a diſcourſe which I ſaw tended to his woes, I told him, that with all his

infidelity

infidelity in their charms, I could not believe but that he had ſome favourite female deity, at whoſe ſhrine he offered up the incenſe of his vows. He replied, he had; and ſuch a one as need only be ſeen to be adored. Her hair was auburn, her eyes a mild placid brown, her height commanding, her ſkin ſoft and ſmooth to exceſs, yet firm and ſpringy to the touch, her complexion fair as ſenſuality would wiſh it. The red and white of her countenance ſweetly blended by the chaſte hand of nature, far excelling the niceſt touches of meritricious art. Her ſhape and limbs ſuch as might ſhame the Medicean Venus's; in ſhort; ſhe appeared like the ripeſt of the graces, being juſt twenty-two years of age, or rather like Hebe riſing from her fall;

fall; an accident which muſt alſo happen to this terreſtrial divinity, to convince mortals that they had before no idea of perfection. Think how I ſtared. —— He went on; —— Add to all this, that ſhe ſings delightfully, dances to a miracle, has an excellent underſtanding, which ſhe has improved by reading all the beſt Engliſh claſſics; is modeſt, affable, ſprightly, good-humoured, and what ſhould weigh more than all with a ſenſible man, ſeems moſt ſincerely and tenderly attached to him; their interviews alſo were few, and by ſtealth, none of her friends in the leaſt ſuſpecting their connection, or even acquaintance; yet with all theſe incitements to the moſt ardent paſſion, he met her without tranſport, and parted without regret.

Though

Though I could not avoid pitying his ſituation, the reaſon of which I well knew, I reprehended his injuſtice to charms which appeared irreſiſtable. He agreed with me that they were ſo to every one but him; and ſaid, that though they would have inſpired pity into Mahomet the IId. urbanity into Peter the Great, love into Charles the XIIth. forgiveneſs into George the IIId. and mercy into his faithful friends and allies, who ſcalped Miſs Macrea, yet he was inſenſible to them, having loſt for the ſex that eſteem and reverence, the fuel which alone can make the flame of love burn bright and ſtrong.

You ſee what a ſtrange medly of love and politics he makes, from which I was glad to be freed by our arrival at Rochdale.

LET-

LETTER XLVIII.

Rochdale.

I HAVE already given you a female bigot in religion; and, were I inclined to draw a male one at full length, I have a moſt excellent original before me. But I hate uncouth pictures; there is no novelty in them; we meet chimney-ſweepers and duſt-men in every ſtreet; had Carrachi drawn only a butcher's ſhop he would never have been eſteemed by poſterity. The features of a male enthuſiaſt have not that ſoftneſs and delicacy, which render even error pleaſing in the other ſex; beſides, he is too apt to lay aſide as

lady's weapon, the tongue, and betake himſelf to the Argumentum Baculinum; in other words, the ſword. I never ſee any of theſe in the heat of argument, but I think of guns, bayonets, and cruſades. I was to-day mentioning to a curate of the church of England, my having been at a deiſtical meeting; when, to my great ſurpriſe, he, in whoſe countenance I thought I ſaw moderation and good ſenſe delineated, whipt off his maſk at once, and attacked Deiſts, Arians, Hereticks, and me, all at once, pell mell. He aſſured me, that I could not go to their meetings conſiſtent with my duty, as a Chriſtian. Pray to the Father without mentioning the mediation of the Son! It was impious, heterodox, and contrary to expreſs commandment.

With

With ſuch hard names did he run on for half an hour. As I did not like his natural countenance when unmaſked, it bearing ſome reſemblance to either the flames of the inquiſition, perſecution, or at leaſt excommunication, I had prepared to decamp early in the combat but he conſidering the taking my hat as a ſignal for that purpoſe, planted himſelf ſo directly between me and the door, that I found flight was impoſſible. When he had finiſhed, I found I muſt return ſome anſwer before I could be permitted a quiet retreat. I therefore returned him many thanks for convincing me how improper it was to ſay the Lord's Prayer; and gravely told him, that as to the doxies he had ſo often mentioned in his truly learned diſcourſe, the

the beſt definition I had ever heard was, that orthodoxy is each man's own doxy; whereas heterodoxy is the doxy of every other perſon. He was preparing to reply to the firſt poſition, but the latter ſeemed for a time totally to diſcomfit him; and I got my eſcape made during the confuſion it raiſed in his argumentative powers.

On recounting this diſcourſe to my friend, I could not avoid taking notice how rare a thing intolerance is at preſent, eſpecially among the clergy of our excellent church. He aſked me to what I attributed the moderation of the preſent times? I anſwered, to the learning, piety, and good ſenſe of the clergy. He ſeemed juſt

beginning

beginning a diſſentient ſhake of his head, but corrected himſelf, and ſaid,

Though the clergy of the national church poſſeſs more true uſeful learning than was ever known under any eſtabliſhment whatever; yet it may be doubtful whether their knowledge is ſo much ſuperior to that of the laiety, as it was in the times of barbariſm and ignorance; when we had not almoſt a ſingle mathematician, lawyer, or phyſician but among the clerical order. Some I know aſcribe our preſent moderation to the people being more enlightened, and therefore ſcorning to be prieſt-ridden; others to the total want of all religion, and others to the great prevalence of rational deiſm. For my own part, I aſcribe

it to a very different cauſe. Our articles of faith and liturgy are ſo happily conſtructed, that no one ſincerely believes all that they contain. I ſay happily, becauſe were we agreed as to their contents, we ſhould ſoon think of perſuading others, and perſecution would a-pace creep in. But with what face could any of us attempt to inflict pains and penalties upon others for not confiding in what we ourſelves do not believe. For this reaſon, whenever I hear any diſſenter wiſhing a reform in our book of Common Prayer, I always reprobate the idea, as let the majority of the nation be agreed in its liturgy, I can ſoon tell him, nay, he will ſoon feel, what will become of the minority.

He

He then went on by inſtancing the various popiſh countries where the Pope's infallibility is univerſally credited; France, where it is more than doubted; Scotland, with her confeſſion of faith; Sweden, with their's, and the Mahometan countries, eſpecially before the ſects of Omer and Ali divided them; in all of which he aſſerted that intolerance and perſecution ever was in proportion to the eſtimation in which the creed eſtabliſhed by authority was held by the bulk of the people.

I would have endeavoured to ſhew him that he had miſtaken an effect for a cauſe; and that a general diffuſion of knowledge always produced a great variety of opinions; but knowing how inexpungible

he is when entrenched behind a paradox, I quietly gave up the attack, and decamped prudently, like Howe at Quibbletown, with my argumentative forces untried, and therefore unbroken.

LET-

LETTER XLIX.

Rochdale.

MY friend laſt night gave me a diſſertation on the advantages of puffing. He laid it down as certain, that no perſon could ſucceed at preſent, in any line, without this invaluable qualification. In the medical profeſſion, he inſtanced the various arts of this kind made uſe of from the quack, who puffs himſelf on a ſtage, or by handbills, and advertiſements in the news-papers, to the great phyſician who is puffed by a popular party, religious ſect, or ſcottified nation. Having thus diſpoſed of phyſic, he went on to law, divinity, and

other arts, and at laſt came to politics. Here I thought I might venture to enter my diſſent, and as he had mentioned the name of Lord Sandwich, took an opportunity of deſcanting on that immaculate nobleman's great and univerſally acknowledged abilities. I told him that I feared thoſe miſcreants the patriots had miſled him as to his lordſhip. Has he not been praiſed by his peers for preferring his own friends and voters to the beſt places in Greenwich hoſpital, and ſending adrift, like lunatics, the wretches who only delivered and gave us victory in the late war? Has he not with great judgment employed the very man to feed the penſioners, who was formerly convicted of almoſt ſtarving them? Indeed, the ſooner they are ſtarved the better for the nation,

nation, all good courtiers would ſay; did not the foundation give ſuch a handſome number of jobs and contracts, and ſo many fine ſnug ſalaries and ſinecure places to members of parliament and their friends? Was he not thanked publickly for theſe and his ſervices to the fleet, by a majority of the houſe of lords, who, it was believed would have voted that the whole French and Spaniſh navy are nothing but bum-boats, unable to cope with the barges on the Thames; and, that the preſent fleet of Britain is greater, more reſpectable, and better officered than we ever poſſeſſed, though fooliſh untractable patriots, who mind numbers and hiſtory, find it not equal by half to what we had in the laſt war; and ſee with regret a Harvey,

a Keppel, a Harland, and Howe diſcarded from it. Theſe, and many other things, it is ſuſpected, would have been voted, but that they feared the frightening into an immediate peace our enemies, who are well acquainted with the ſovereign effects of a vote of either houſe, to make ſeventy-five ſhips more than one hundred and twenty-one, change Germaine into a hero, or Hawke into a cowardly po. roon. This fear, which, if realized, would have loſt them much of their emoluments, operated we hear, more powerfully upon them than truth, that raſcally poor ſneaking thread-bare friend of the patriots had been able to do, though for eighteen long winters ſhe had been toiling to procure one vote in her favour in vain, except for a few months,

months, when the Marquis of Rockingham had power to be her friend.

' I was nearly out of breath you, may eaſily believe, on finiſhing the laſt long ſentence, and was obliged to ſtop, altho' I had not pronounced half the eulogium with which I knew the miniſtry are daily beſpattered in every public place by their dependants; who, whilſt they are preying upon the vitals of the nation, paint with equal truth and likeneſs to the original, Lord North, as a profound ſtateſman and man of candour and ſincerity, and Lord Mansfield as a ſteady ſupporter of liberty and law.

My friend finding a pauſe, went on. " We all may remember Lord Hawke at the head of the Admiralty; that is,

is, if we would employ that faculty of the human mind called memory; but at preſent it is ſo grating a quality to an Engliſhman, that Lord Sandwich was perfectly right in aſſerting, that the ſmalleſt degree of it was highly improper and unparliamentary. Hawke, a plain honeſt man, contented himſelf with doing his duty without parade, and keeping a better navy in time of profound peace, than his ſucceſſor can muſter after four years ſtruggle in war. He, poor man, never dreamed that the principal part of his buſineſs was to have himſelf puffed off by all his underlings, or to keep the daily papers in pay; particularly the Morning Poſt, which would compliment the devil, or libel God Almighty if ſixpence more could be gained by

by it than is received from government, for all their equally juſt praiſe of Lord Sandwich, or abuſe of the Duke of Richmond. This weak Lord, though he had effrontery enough to face danger or death in the cauſe of his country, yet had not ſufficient magnanimity and courage to get up in the houſe of Lords with unbluſhing countenance from day to day; and utter innumerable falſhoods, as to the ſtate of the navy; or, in a moſt ungentleman-like manner invent calumnies againſt his predeceſſor, never imagining that his own merit would be eſtimated among the Lords by the untruths he ſhould publiſh of the perſon who went before him. He thought that his actions would ſpeak for themſelves in a country where he only who lies loudeſt, and with the moſt

moſt audaciouſneſs is heard; and that he ought to prefer national good to the intereſt of contractors, penſioners, place-men, members of parliament, and their electors. For theſe heinous offences and omiſſions, though he had repeatedly ſerved his country, and once ſaved it when on the verge of deſtruction, he was deſervedly diſcarded, unpitied by every good courtier and zealous friend of the king; and that mirror of naval ſkill, integrity and abilities, Lord Sandwich, appointed in his room. What a noble change for contractors and Huntingdonſhire voters. Puffers likewiſe had their ſhare in the advantage. In the former adminiſtration merit was fooliſhly taken notice of, now he who lyed loudeſt and moſt for Lord Sandwich, and ſpread the

moſt

moſt rancorous calumnies on his predeceſſor, was ſure of preferment; by this ſtandard the navy was ſoon reformed, and became glorioufly unanimous in puffing; every news-paper, every coffee-houſe, was filled with it.

This nobleman likewiſe ſoon found that it was more advantageous to have timber in the dock-yards than a number of men of war fit for actual ſervice. Forty ſhips of the line were quickly condemned to be broken up; what a golden opportunity of railing at Lord Hawke, and raiſing his ſucceſſor on his demerits. I call it a golden one, becauſe wicked patriots ſay, that the Firſt Lord of the Admiralty pockets ſeveral thouſand pounds for each ſhip ſo condemned; which he may lay out on his whores, baſ-

tards,

tards, or muſicians; beſides all the advantages to his clerks, underlings, and thoſe favourites to whom the ſale of the ſhip is made.

As I ſaw he was fairly embarked for the fictitious haven of patriotiſm, honeſty, or philanthropy, I, like all good courtiers, deteſting truths I could not withſtand, made a ſecure retreat from his arguments, and my own feelings at the ſame time, to a true tory club; where the univerſal belief was, that every perſon is a raſcal, if you come up to his price. Huzza! for the creed of George the Third!

LET-

LETTER L.

Manchester.

I HAD often enquired the cauſe why York has ſo little trade, though it is apparently well ſituated to enjoy it; but I received no anſwer that ſatisfied me. I am unfortunately one of thoſe philoſophers who believe that every effect muſt have an adequate cauſe. What would have become of me in the days of later miracles, when the whole order and laws of nature were ſet aſide for cauſes that would be thought at preſent not worth the interference of a petty magiſtrate, much leſs the great Creator of heaven and earth. As however,

ever, I luckily live in an age when our belief has been laid out for us above a thouſand years ago by a biſhop who ſends all who diſagree with him to the kitchen, in the next world, where he ſays there is a deviliſh hot fire; and where I ſuppoſe they will be conſtantly ſweating in preparing and cooking the victuals for this prieſt and his friends, who are roaring and ſinging in the parlour; I make a rule, on account of being inclined to perſpire, which evidently diſqualifies me for the employment, always to agree with him in religious matters, even although neither he nor I know one tittle of the matter in debate, which might be expreſſed in the Carthagenian language, and be every whit as intelligible to the world as in that of the creed. If I know

know any thing of the matter, this is a true faith, which, although in may not be able to remove mountains, is yet as totally distant from those seducing harlots reason and conviction, as any zealot can wish. Altho', however, in religious matters I am so good a member of the Church of England whilst here, or of Rome, if I happened to be within the power of that bewitching whore of Babylon, as the Protestants have politely and uncontrovertibly shewn her to be: yet in civil or philosophical affairs, I must acknowledge myself a little inclined to scepticism. In these I am apt to employ my reason, and can as soon assent to the Newtonians squeezing the whole matter of the world into an egg-shell, on account of those horrid vacuums which they

learnedly prove to exiſt every where but in their own brains; as to the incorporating of York being the great cauſe of its want of trade and manufactures.

The cauſe which formerly occaſioned corporations to flouriſh ſo much in Europe, was the protection which they afforded to the indigent, and therefore weak part of the ſpecies, againſt the princely or lordly plunderers and devourers of the world. In cities and corporate towns alone human nature had a degree of dignity: in the country nothing prevailed but that vaſſalage which reduced the whole ſpecies, except a few princes or lords below the beaſt of the earth; or even thoſe thick-headed and harder-hearted wild beaſts who go about plunging

plunging their bayonets into every perſon they are ordered.

As things are now greatly amended, many think that the laying all their charters aſide would be advantageous to the world; but perhaps it is a little too ſoon to deſtroy our fences againſt royalty. Our preſent pious king may not be ſucceeded by one ſo averſe to bloodſhed, and ſo impartially fond of all his ſubjects, as in his ſpeeches he aſſures us he is, and who can doubt a royal word, as from the beginning of the world to this day every king who was of a contrary diſpoſition, has openly told all perſons that he had neither honour, truth, nor humanity in his whole compoſition. There likewiſe ſeems to be ſome little danger from that magic word loyalty which is univerſally in the mouth

of every courtier, tory, and Scotchman. Formerly loyalty meant that affection which a good ſubject bore a wiſe humane prince, for a juſt and benevolent adminiſtration of the laws and powers entruſted to his hand by his whole people. At preſent this word is totally undefinable; for as in the court dialect the king is the protector of us all, which ſhews him to be a much ſtronger man than Samſon, Hercules, or even Pantagruel of famous memory; in return for this inviſible defence, the indiſcribeable quality loyalty, even to the worſt princes, is to be worn in the heart like a charm or amulet inſcribed with Abracadabra, Gargantua, George, or ſome equally ſtrong and powerful name. Indeed the wearing this is thought more requiſite at preſent,

preſent, as all good loyaliſts aſſure us, that without a king we could have no laws or religion, nor could the art of man find any way of our joining together for mutual defence and aſſiſtance. It ſeems alſo neceſſary to be worn on the prince's account, as the conſecrated ſacredneſs of his perſon, his being the undoubted vicegerent of heaven, nay, even the holy oil, conferring unſeen ſo many excellent gifts, with which he was anointed by a man who in an equally inviſible manner had received the holy ghoſt from the hand of another man, have all loſt much of that myſterious conſequence they formerly poſſeſſed. Let us therefore preſerve corporations, and among the reſt, York, a little longer; and ſee whether ſome more

powerful cauſes of its want of trade cannot be found out.

The cauſe of any place enjoying much trade for a length of time, muſt be ſought either in its ſituation or produce. Alexandria was the mart of Europe until navigation ſhewed a nearer way to the Eaſt Indies. Holland lying at the mouths of the great rivers of Germany neceſſarily engroſſes her commerce. Perhaps a better ſituation for trade cannot be deviſed than the Britiſh iſles, commanding the paſs between the northern and ſouthern parts of Europe. The wars in which our diſintereſtedneſs and love of humanity conſtantly kept us plunged, have given the north-weſt parts of the kingdom vaſt advantages in their commerce with America, their navigation

gation to that riſing empire being almoſt free from danger. The coal mines with which this part abounds are likewiſe no inconſiderable reaſon for its excelling in manufactures moſt of which are carried on greatly by means of fire. Fuel is only half the price here that it bears at York, and one fifth what it is procured for in London. The lands in the vicinity of the great manufacturing towns are all naturally courſe; artizans were not therefore put to that expence for room to carry on their work whilſt their trade was in its infancy, as they would have been in the fertile vale about York. The hilly countries abound with water-falls for mills, and by keeping induſtry more alive for their tillage, tend to perpetuate the ſuperiority they firſt acquired

quired from their rude uncultivated ſtate.

Whether theſe reaſons for ſo many barren ſpots of the earth enjoying a great ſhare of trade, be the true ones, or thoſe generally given by the writers of Reveries, jocularly called Hiſtories, is ſubmitted to your worſhip's pantagruelian judgment. My friend is ſure the canvaſſing of this point will afford better employment for your time than reading Archbiſhops of Yorks ſermons in defence of war; which a pacific perſon, like you, may think needs few encomiums to Engliſhmen, who, for above a thouſand years, have been ſteeped to the very lips in blood, without almoſt a ſingle interval of peace. But all our wars, like thoſe

of

of the Romans, Tartars, and other heroic wolves, have been juſt, whilſt the peaceful ſheep have ever been in the wrong.

LET-

LETTER LI.

YOU ſay, my friend, you have found a parallel for Lord North. I am glad to hear it, for in all my reading of antient or modern hiſtory, I have not been able to find an equal to that paragon of honour, virtue, diſintereſtedneſs, and truth; that friend of his king, and ſaviour of his country. Perhaps, you have found one in the annals of Aſia, where glorious deſpotiſm ſo nobly prevails, that ſubjects approach their monarch crawling on their bellies, licking the duſt from under his feet, and repeating, as good courtiers ſay to our king,

and

and vile obſtinate whigs only to their God, In Thee we live, move, and have our being; where even ladies were put to death on approaching the prince if he did not ſtretch out his ſcepter to them, as happened to handſome Eſther, which was the ſame as the modern cuſtom of throwing the handkerchief. In that delightfully governed country ſome happy genius may have had an opportunity of diſplaying as many perfections as his Lordſhip; but in this part of the globe I am certain it has not happened.

He told me I was miſtaken, and mentioned Sinon. I ſhrugged my ſhoulders, finding the key he was going to ſtrike. He went on:

" Honeſt

" Honeſt Sinon, like his lordſhip, had his tears at command, to gull the commons of Troy, he likewiſe had his profeſſions of honeſty and diſintereſtedneſs, which he repeated with nearly as plauſible a countenance. His misfortunes and poverty were not forgotten; but above all his truth was the quality which he wiſhed to inculcate moſt; 'tis pity that though he had equal credit for it at the time, he could not tranſmit the belief of it as unimpeached to poſterity; which he muſt have done had he been acquainted with his lordſhip's elegant method of retracting his word, a North-invented courtly remedy for every ſpecies of falſhood and diſſimulation.

I could

I could contain no longer, and aſſured him I thought his compariſon totally unjuſtifiable. He ſtopt me, by ſaying, that in ſome points it might be a little inapplicable. Thus Sinon only betrayed his enemies the truſty Trojans. He had alſo no boroughs in Greece, to the unconſtitutional ſale of which he could be privy and afterwards ſtand up, unabaſhed, to own it in the aſſembly of the people; and above all, he had no Scotch bullies, no Martins, no Adams', no Fullerton's; in ſhort, no ſtaunch fleſhed blood-hounds, true to the ſcent of a place, who would murder every virtuous man that oppoſed him, and truſt for their never-failing reward to his well known predilection; nay, his manifeſt idolization of every ſpecies of private baſeneſs and public

lic villainy. So far he had done Sinon injuſtice. But——

The word But, totally frightened me, and I made my eſcape from the remainder of the harangue, which I ſaw was not half over, as faſt as my legs, my fears, and my eſteem for the great, the bold, the induſtrious, the ingenious, the deciſive, and the immaculate Lord North could carry me.

LETTER LII.

Mancheſter.

There is no true patriotiſm, ſaith a courtier; and were not our underſtandings blinded, we ſhould all know what to think of him. A lady once told me there was no ſuch thing as chaſtity; and though I am very dull at hints, I thought I could gueſs at her meaning, as I did at Helen's, when ſhe ſaid, "Matrona rara pudica eſt." I expect indeed to ſee the day when female virtue, as well as patriotiſm, ſhall be laughed out of the world. The ladies of eaſy virtue need only ſettle another five hundred a year on Dr. Johnſon, and the penſion will

will open his eyes, and alter his opinions in morality as much as the former from the crown did in politics; we ſhall read Falſe Alarms written in favour of promiſcuous copulation; and cuckoldom no diſhonour; dedicated to all the huſbands in England. Every writer in favour of virtue ſhall be treated with as much malevolence as Milton has been by that ſour rancorous critic. I queſtion, however, whether the cauſe requires a bribe to be given to that venal bombaſtic champion. The Scotch writers, who, to pleaſe the beſt of kings, have been ſo fortunate in finding or, in plain Engliſh, inventing anecdotes to vilify Ireland, and degrade to a level with themſelves the worthieſt characters in Engliſh hiſtory, will ſoon, conſidering the preſent

ſent courtly puſillanimous temper of this nation, have gained their end. And as ſuch active minds muſt find employment ſuitable to their envious natures, or, like Hudibras's ſword, hack to-pieces the meagre tawny ſcabbard that incloſes them, they muſt next fall upon the female ſex, to ſhew them fit companions for the men. In this undertaking they will not need the aſſiſtance of forged Scotch ballads, which never had any exiſtence, nor old trunks buried by the hands of royalty itſelf, to be like ſpurious medals dug up again in a year or two, in order to put truth and virtue completely out of countenance. By them Penelope will be proved a courtezan, Lucrece a harlot, and Elizabeth as wanton as Mary queen of Scots. The days

of old, promiſed by all Scottiſh witches, ſeers, and men endued with the ſecond ſight, ſhall then arrive. Virtue, candor, diſintereſtedneſs, benevolence, patriotiſm, and chaſtity will be baniſhed from this fortunate iſland, and in their ſtead mean ſelfiſhneſs, ſordid œconomy, undermining cunning, perſevering adulation, hypocritical devotion, and ſarcaſtic envious rancour will be tranſplanted from the north to the generous Engliſh ſoil, where manured by all the richeſt places and penſions ſcraped together by the united labour of millions of Engliſh hinds and mechanics, watered by a Manſfield, a Stormont, and a Wedderburne, and warmed by the royal ſummer ſun of the Stuart line, now in truth only arrived at its meridian; they

they will ſpread from ſhore to ſhore with a luxuriance unknown in their own cold ſlowly vegetating clime. Then ſhall no courtly Robinſon be required to write apologies for Engliſh as well as Spaniſh cruelty in America; but in his laboured page our gracious monarch ſhall be found Almagro-like blamable only in not waging earlier an unjuſt nefarious war; and that a miſplaced delicacy prevented his putting to death his priſoners, whom neither the law of God nor man permitted him to kill.

"Pray, ſaid I, what will become of you and me at that time?" clapping my friend upon the ſhoulder, and interrupting his reverie, "We will become, anſwered he, finding that his ſoliloquy, like all theatrical ones, had

been overheard; merry-andrews to ſome quack with an Aberdeen degree, gentlemen-uſhers to the pedlars pack of ſome Scotch travelling merchant; or perhaps devils to ſome Scotch printing-preſs; 'tis all that will be left any perſon born ſouth of Tweed, let his induſtry, learning, or talents be what they may.

LET-

LETTER LIII.

Manchester.

IF my friend were apt to wear a maſk, which indeed he does too little for his intereſt in this world, he would be obliged to throw it aſide in a pet, and even to forſwear the decent gauze veil of politeneſs, whilſt he ſtaid in this place. To hear the moſt monſtrous oppreſſions in trade of a whole nation, juſtified by a parcel of merchants, whoſe whole ſubſtance was acquired by, and now depends upon a freedom of manufacturing and exporting whatever ſhall ſeem good in their eyes; and above all, to hear war, that deteſtable in-

vention of ambitious princes and rulers, who like Cyrus, can never be ſatisfied with blood, whilſt they live, to have our ears ſtunned in its praiſe is more than can be eaſily borne by any one who has the ſmalleſt ſpark of humanity in his breaſt. It muſt kindle into a flame. For his part, who is all touchwood and tinder on this ſubject, he could not avoid letting it blaze forth.

"Pray, good ſir, or gentlemen, ſaid he, for I perceive you are all of one mind, what right have you to tyrannize over Ireland in the manner you do? Have they, as you ſay the Scotch have done, come in ſhoals to ſnatch your places and penſions from your own out-ſtretched arms? Do they not, on the contrary, maintain your greedy children

children in abundance? or do they, like that nation, as you think, come among you, only to puſh on each other in their various purſuits, breaking through every connection, every tye of honour, gratitude, and truth, if the intereſt of a countryman be concerned? For my own part, I am an Iriſhman, but if I perceived this ſelfiſh principle in any degree prevail, I would abjure my country; and, if you will allow the bull, chuſe a new one; as I am convinced, that beſide the meanneſs of ſuch conduct, there is in human nature a ſpirit which will, as ſoon as they perceive the aſſociation, lead men to confer no benefits on thoſe from whom they can never hope for a return. Do we not ſee the univerſal deteſtation which follows the Jews, not for their crimes,

but on account of their ſeparation from the world at large; and could I be admitted an adviſer to the Scotch, I would endeavour to convince them of the neceſſity of giving up this ſelfiſh principle altogether; leſt it might in the end really go as far as you ſeem to think it has done already.

But you ſay, you have the right of conqueſt over Ireland; even admitting this poſition, which is far from the truth, and which can only flatter lions, bears, and wolves, or men of their heroic conquering diſpoſition; what is the right of conqueſt at beſt but that of a robber? In your caſe particularly what is it? The Iriſh, tired with the diſſenſions of their provincial kings, and afraid

of

of one of them overthrowing the liberties of the whole kingdom, agreed to chuſe your king as the ſupreme. What was the power of the lord, or king, if you will, of all Ireland; no more than of an umpire among the reſt; like the emperor of Germany, he had great titular, but no real authority, except in his own demeſnes. If this diſtinction, as to the power of the king, be unjuſt, or improper to be maintained or preſerved, what barrier, I beſeech you, can be provided againſt deſpotiſm among yourſelves? if the title of a king confers every power, your parliament are often rebels. Was not this act an honour to you? and did it not call for your gratitude? Inſtead of this, what was the return? Your kings treating Ireland as they

moſtly

moſtly did yourſelves, endeavoured by fraud or force to make themſelves above all law. At home you often reſiſted them; but in Ireland you gave them every aid, what was injuſtice to yourſelves, was ſtrictly right as to them; there is one law often for ourſelves, and another for our neighbours. During the many centuries the conteſts raiſed by this injuſtice laſted, the acts of devaſtation, burning of towns, murdering of women and infants, committed by you, would be almoſt incredible at the preſent day, did not the few hiſtorians you then poſſeſſed, relate them; for the Iriſh literature you took care as much as in your power to deſtroy, that no record might remain to upbraid you, and that you and the Scotch might at a future period de-

ny

ny the Iriſh learning and humanity at a period when you were ſo little civilized as to ſell your children in the common fairs to theſe very people you now deſpiſe; who educated them at the public expence, and made them uſeful members of their ſtate. At laſt, when with the aſſiſtance of Scotland, under Elizabeth and James the Firſt; you had got into poſſeſſion of a country torn to pieces by the factions you had fomented, and traitors you had employed; waſted to a degree of ruin unknown in every war, and to every power, but your preſent gracious and good allies the North American Indians; did you cheriſh them as fellow-ſubjects? no! on the contrary every means which fraud and cunning, wearing the maſk of law could deviſe, and real power

could

could execute, were put in force against the miſerable natives; who were univerſally ſtripped and proſcribed as the Americans would be, had many, I am afraid too many, of our rulers the power. At laſt, driven to madneſs by the perſecutions they endured, the furious natives roſe in rebellion; and loſing that mildneſs they had always poſſeſſed, and deſtitute of leaders of information, fortune, or liberal ſentiments, they committed outrages which would diſgrace the annals of any kingdom; outrages, which even the extremity or length of the provocation cannot apologize for nor palliate. Yet even then they did not make a mockery of juſtice, and like your Harry the eighth, your archbiſhop Cranmer, and your Mary, ſentence

tence to the ſtake, under the appearance of law, thoſe who differed in opinion with them, but had never injured them. They took the lives of thoſe who had injured them, and they took them in an unprepared manner; being ſenſible that a plan of formal ſlow reſiſtance would be ſpeedily overthrown. Little would I ſay concerning ſo barbarous a deed my ſoul deteſts; but that their ſufferings from Cromwell, to whom they ſcarcely made an oppoſition, ſo unprepared were they for defence, and their ſubſequent miſeries for one hundred and thirty years, muſt, if any thing can, have atoned for it.

Their trade has ever ſince been reſtricted by you, almoſt to its utter annihilation; your manufactures poured in upon

upon them to nearly the excluſion of their own; their treaſury drained to ſupport Engliſh placemen and penſioners; and four fifths of their inhabitants proſcribed by ſuch penal laws as have not a parallel in modern hiſtory. Theſe have been your tender mercies both to the native inhabitants, and even to the deſcendants of your own forefathers; who, allured by the pillage of a whole nation, under colour of laws made and ſupported by your force, turned the natives out of their land, and fattened on their ſpoils. In doing this neither the treaty of Limerick, which being made at the point of the ſword, ought to be held the moſt ſacred and binding amongſt men; nor the convention of 1696, have been attended to. How, indeed,

ſhould

ſhould they, when even the rights of mankind, and cries of nature could not reach your ears; cloſed and rendered deaf by unfeeling ſelfiſhneſs.

LET-

LETTER LIV.

Manchester.

AS I saw the disputants were growing serious, and that my friend's warm animated manner of speaking was in danger of being misconstrued into anger; a mistake I have often known polite persons fall into with respect to him, I endeavoured frequently to change the discourse; but finding this to be impossible, I attempted to give the debate a jocular turn.

I therefore told them that the Irish seemed to me very like those wicked varlets the Americans, who, forgetting

ting that ſome hundred years ago our anceſtors had begotten their anceſtors, had now the impudence to deny the plenitude of our fatherly power, to chaſtiſe or confine them as we thought proper. Such wretches believed, that as by all human and divine laws the power of a parent expired at a certain age, ſo a few centuries were a ſufficient nonage for a nation, and that there was ſome period of time in which it had a right to ſelf-government. This doctrine, although might ſeem ſo reaſonable that few would venture to oppoſe it openly, yet was completely overthrown by a trifling reſerve that every good Engliſhman perpetually kept in his own breaſt; which was, that he was the only complete judge of this time arriving. You ſee then

how ſoon Ireland and the colonies will be emancipated.

Beſides, had not England treated Ireland like an indulgent parent, and lately afforded its inhabitants the moſt eſſential relief, in allowing them to raiſe and export tobacco. There had been one trifling omiſſion, it is true, in the bill, which was the ordering them a few months more ſunſhine every year, to complete the work; but as I ſuppoſed this would be amended next year like moſt of their other laws, by an act of the ſame legiſlature, placing the Iriſh at leaſt thirty degrees nearer the line, I doubted not it would effectually anſwer the purpoſe: and if they ſhould be told from reſpectable authority not to ſtarve for another year, but to feed upon king's ſpeeches, as no bread, fleſh, or

potatoes

potatoes were to be procured, in a ſimilar manner to Lucretius's aurea depaſcere verba, I hope they will acquieſce, and then the amendment may paſs, and a liberty be alſo given to them of growing cinnamon, and other ſpices; or of working all their numerous gold and ſilver mines. Then will they be a happy nation; and although they may not oſtrich or ſoldier-like be able to digeſt cold iron, yet certainly it muſt be allowed that they are not deſired in the goſpel-phraſe to eat ſtones; the only food which the Engliſh nation ſeems to think too hard for its dependants.

Notwithſtanding this ſally, the battle raged with unremitting fury; and might have produced ſome of thoſe good-natured epithets of rebel and

enemy to his country, with which my friend ſays, a true Engliſhman ever loads all who differ from him in opinion, or have the ſmalleſt tincture of philanthrophy in their boſom; and will not join with him in ſuppoſing every other human being to be a low, mean, deſpicable, or villainous creature. A lucky interruption, which ſhall be told in my next letter, prevented this, and ſaved my friend from being run down by the Mancheſterian cits, joined with the Londoner.

LET-

LETTER LV.

Mancheſter.

I WAS not a little pleaſed with the entry of an acquaintance, as I knew it would terminate, or at leaſt give a turn to the diſcourſe. Being in regimentals, he was aſked to what corps he belonged? he told them to the Iriſh Volunteers. He is ſix feet five inches in height, and immoderately ſtrong in appearance. They ſaid he was a fine grenadier. A grenadier! dear honey, quoth he, Lord help you! I was ſix months making intereſt to be taken into the light infantry of our firſt regiment, but could not be received, as I want-

ed an inch of the height; at laſt however, on our county raiſing a ſecond regiment, as I had a good deal of intereſt with the officers, and they were not quite ſo nice, they agreed to lower the ſtandard an inch in my favour; but this being a bad precedent, the reſt of the kingdom would not allow it to be followed." They all ſtared, and aſked what then the battalion-men and grenadiers were. "All in proportion, ſaid he, juſt like ſteps of ſtairs from me upward. I'll warrant you think, dear joys, that our volunteers are kidnapped like your ſoldiers, in hedge taverns, ſpunging or bawdy-houſes, and jails, to cut throats on the command of a man they have never ſeen, at the rate of ſixpence a day; no ſuch thing, by my ſhoul; we are all ſlaves to liberty,

berty, and never will take an oath of allegiance but to ourſelves and our country; no, not the next man to God Almighty himſelf! heavens bleſs him! Our grenadiers, quotha! if you want to ſee one of them, you will ſoon be indulged, as I underſtand one of my corps, the ninth or tenth man indeed in the regiment for ſize, being only ſeven feet eleven inches, for I meaſured him myſelf, when he was juſt eighteen, and he may have ſtretched ſince; came over to Cheſter fair to ſell a pack of linnen cloth, and there finding every body ſtare at him, as if he was a wonder, took it into his head to make a ſhow of himſelf, and at a ſhilling a-head has put fifteen hundred hard guineas into his pocket; and I hear will get

fifty times as much; as a young lady not higher than my oak ſapling, which is four feet no inches, with an immenſe fortune, has taken it into her head to fall in love with him; ſweet ſoul! I honour her for it, and wiſh I was tall enough myſelf, that I might alſo get one of the dear creatures. But when he and I go home, we will take care to ſend over a number of our grenadiers, the loweſt of whoſe pockets there is not one in this company could pick; to people your nation with their own hands, and get a race ſomewhat like men; as, upon my ſalvation, I am very ſorry to ſee ſuch a puny ſet of whipper-ſnappers as I meet here every where. It will be your womens fault, and that I believe is not the caſe, if your breed be not mended."

Think

Think how my friend and I chuckled at this diſcourſe. To have any idea of it you muſt conceive a grave London citizen and ſeveral Mancheſter ones, with open mouths, ſwallowing every word that was ſaid by this Herculean fellow; for Goliah or Sampſon, my friend ſays, were but children to him. He uttered all likewiſe in the true Iriſh brogue, with ſuch ſimplicity and gravity as forced conviction upon the leaſt credulous of his hearers. They all ſaw before them a ſet of Iriſh Patagonians coming over to eat up themſelves and their boys, as for their wives and daughters, they had another fear concerning them. To parry this formidable invaſion, the Londoner at laſt thought of aſſerting the ſuperiority of diſcipline over bodily ſtrength, and requeſted a muſquet to be ſent for,

that

that the volunteer might ſhew us the Iriſh mode of exerciſe. This the wag for a long time attempted to refuſe, aſſuring us that he had been only three weeks in the ſervice, and was the make-game of his regiment for his awkardneſs; but as I well knew his expertneſs, I joined in overcoming his pretended ſcruples. The muſquet ſeemed only a feather in his hands, he toſſed it about with ſuch agility and exactneſs; and when he had finiſhed, one of the company demanded how many volunteers there were? "Let me ſee, quoth he, half muttering, thirty-two counties, ſixty-four regiments; Downe, Corke, and Dublin, two additional ones each, ſeventy regiments, one hundred and forty battalions, one thouſand men each, beſides officers, grenadiers, light infantry, cavalry, artillery,

lery and miners; one hundred and ninety thouſand five hundred men, ſaid he, raiſing his voice; I will not quarrel at all for a ſcore or two, but I am ſure I am not hundreds out.

This calculation compleated the diſcomfiture of the Mancheſterians; who taking their hats, fled as faſt as the Americans ever did before our victorious and renowned friends the Heſſians, Wolfenbutlians, or the reſt. The London cit alone kept the field of battle; and taking my friend and me aſide, he thought the volunteer's intelligence of too much importance not to be conveyed to the miniſtry; and, on our refuſing to be concerned in it, he called for a chaiſe, and came off poſt for London. There, my friend

friend doubts not his information will be highly eſteemed by our great rulers; perhaps even as much as Mr. Galloway's to the houſe of commons, with which he is certain it is fully on a par, both with reſpect to truth and credibility. And, continued he, as Lord George Germaine likes no bayonet nearer to his beloved perſon than America, the Iriſh will be redreſſed; and if they are, let them at all future periods thank the triumvirate at Mancheſter, my two friends, and me.

LET-

LETTER LVI.

Mancheſter.

THE Mancheſterian heroes were not ſo routed laſt night, but that they returned to the charge to-day; and finding my friend unſupported by his enormous Philiſtine, they endeavoured to extort from him a favourable opinion of preſent men and meaſures, by the force of many words collected from Lord North's, Sandwich's, Mansfield's, and others ſpeeches of good miniſterial ſophiſts; words invented according to my friend's opinion by the counſellors of Pharaoh, Ahab, Balſhazzar, Cræſus, Nero, Sebaſtian, and all the pious, warlike, but imprudent,

imprudent, and therefore unfortunate princes who have reigned before our present moſt prudent and ſucceſsful monarch; words which have ever found ready belief with all thoſe juſt and diſintereſted perſonages whoſe riches and proſperity have ever encreaſed in porportion to the downfall of their country; words which clearly and unanſwerably prove that error perſiſted in to complete deſtruction, is the only wiſdom; and that thoſe rulers, whoſe arrogance, avarice, and want of every principle but ſelfiſhneſs in the extreme, had brought us into our preſent deplorable ſituation, are the only ones fitted to bring us out of it.

The effect theſe had upon my friend, you may readily gueſs; and

as

as when he is fired by the ſubject, his arguments blaze out in a manner peculiar to himſelf, I will endeavour to give you as much of his harangue as I can remember, deſiring you always to keep in mind the oddities of the ſpeaker.

A great nation, when haſtening to decay, ever ſhews ſtrong ſymptoms of decline; yet ſo buſied are its people with their paſſions and intereſts that they are the only perſons who do not perceive the approaching ruin. This inſenſibility is one great cauſe of their deſtruction. Were the body of the people to perceive the evil tendency of the meaſures purſued, were they to ſee clearly the ſecret intereſted deſigns of their ambitious rulers, were they to feel at the beginning

ginning the whole weight of the accumulated miſchief, with which they are afterwards inſenſibly borne down, their fortitude would inſpire them to ſuch exertions of their yet unbroken ſtrength, as would free them from the danger. But when a whole nation is become ſo weak as to confide in thoſe leaders who have been unſucceſsful in every ſcheme, or when implicit truſt and encreaſed power and emolument are the only returns made for reiterated falſhoods and conſtant deceit, then is the whole maſs become too corrupt to be amended or preſerved.

Whether this is our ſituation demands at preſent the moſt ſerious enquiry. If we are united at home, and reſpected abroad; if our finances are unexhauſted, and ſtrength unimpaired;

paired; if our trade be increaſing, and our people wealthy, free, and unoppreſſed, then is our ſtate ſecure and happy; and our miniſtry deſerving of much praiſe: but, if the contrary of all this be true, and that it is too true, I call all our misfortunes to witneſs, what can ſave us from ruin? Is it the religion of a Sandwich; the veracity of a North; the candour of a Mansfield, or the humanity of a Suffolk and a Germaine, that can ſtop our fall? No! even from the mouths of children may we have our anſwer. On the brink of a precipice, with as many enemies as there are ſurrounding nations, all ardently wiſhing to puſh us down, there is no ſafety left but in being thoroughly ſenſible of our danger, and ſpeedily returning by the ſame

plain path which led to the dreadful ſituation. To find out new, crooked, and intricate ways, may exerciſe the far-famed cunning of the preſent miniſtry; but are we ſtill ſo infatuated as to truſt ourſelves longer to the guidance of thoſe who in no one inſtance foreſaw where their meaſures would terminate? to thoſe who though often warned of the tendency of all their ſchemes, were ſo weak or obſtinate as to perſiſt in paths which evidently led to deſtruction?

A clear foreſight of future events is required by none ſo much as the ſtateſman. To him it is the ſum of all knowledge; the chart by which he ſhould ſteer the veſſel of the ſtate, eſpecially when toſſed about by boiſterous

terous factions, or the tempeſts of civil war. Whether our rulers have poſſeſſed this knowledge, the convention of Saratoga, the war with our good neighbours the French, and almoſt every event in the preſent conteſt, will proclaim. Year after year has diſſeminated from the throne promiſes of the ſpeedy ſubjugation of America and the French nation; yet, when we hoped to reap the wiſhed-for harveſt, diſappointment as to the paſt, accompanied with equally fallacious expectations as to the future, are all that we are able to glean, in return for thirty millions expended, and the loſs of thirty thouſand men.

To dwell upon misfortunes beyond our power to retrieve, is ungrateful to a

generous mind; and the notoriety of them would ſeem to render it unneceſſary in the preſent caſe, did not many endeavour to ſhut their eyes and ears to all information. But as little good can be done by pointing out the imbecillity of paſt meaſures, to thoſe whoſe underſtandings enabled them to plan no better; or whoſe avarice has been glutted with a large ſhare of the ſquandered wealth of this unthrifty nation; to them I ſhall only endeavour to ſhew the concern their ſafety or intereſt has in the preſent men and meaſures being totally altered. Yet, though I ſpeak with the profeſſed deſign of opening the eyes of my countrymen, I expect no good effect from it; but, like the calls of Charity to the miſer, or ſincerity to courtiers, ſhall be laughed

at and diſregarded. The infatuation of the times is to deſpiſe all council, but from thoſe of their own ſentiments; to aim at being maſters of a ſubject by ſtudying but one ſide of the argument; and to hope for ſpeedy amendment by following the plans of thoſe who have been uniform in error. Like a phyſician, therefore, who gives good advice to a headſtrong patient, with a certainty of its not being obeyed becauſe it reſtrains his paſſions or appetites, I come forward to preſcribe for my country, whoſe powerful but unavailing efforts have only ſerved to confirm the diſeaſe, and render her more obſtinate in purſuing the cauſes of her deſtruction.

A truce however with deſpair, and let us ſee the tendency of our preſent meaſures, and of thoſe which we will purſue for a year or two to come; while power to purſue them is yet left us. I ſay thoſe we will purſue, without fear of being contradicted by the event, as almoſt every promiſe of our miniſtry has been. To them the gift of foreſight ſeems to have been denied by a power ſuperior to what we can counteract. But this is not ſo unattainable to thoſe who can perceive the greateſt uniformity in all our meaſures, and a ſteady regularity in our approaches to ruin.

That we ſhall have no real change of miniſtry is apparent. Should even the king, in order to render the face of

of deſtruction leſs terrible, be obliged to give out oſtenſibly other managers to our councils, yet ſtill it will only be a ſhuffling of the preſent rulers into different places; or ſhould one or two new ones be introduced, it will be only ſuch as have in part or wholly recanted their oppoſition; enough of the old leaven remaining to ſpeedily aſſimulate the whole maſs. Beſides, why ſhould the miniſtry be changed, ſince every evil that has been foretold by the patriots is by all ſtanch courtiers attributed to them; as well might a perſon who ſaw a blind man walking near a precipice, and warned him of danger, be blamed, if diſregarding his advice the apprehended diſaſter came to paſs; yet ſuch is the infatuation of the times that this mode of rea-

ſoning has weight with a whole nation. A greater blindneſs of underſtanding can ſcarcely be deſcribed, and will ſeem incredible to future ages. Indeed every man who does not at preſent favour the ill-founded hopes of the nation, is deemed a traitor and an enemy to his country; and ſo far have we gone in this unparalleled blindneſs, that even the idea of patriotiſm is become odious; and he only is reſpected who every day proſtitutes for hire his abilities, truth, and conſcience. Why, indeed, ſhould miniſters be changed, when after five years daily falſhoods, they find the nation as willing as ever to be deceived, and even of its own accord adding new ones to make conſiſtent their heterogeneous maſs of lies. Were I to enumerate all the untruths that have been ſpread dur-

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ing that time of the wiſhes of the Americans to become ſubject to us; their quarrels among themſelves, and with the French, a volume would be inſufficient for the purpoſe; yet at this preſent moment are theſe ſwallowed as greedily as ever, and will be ſo, I doubt not, throughout the preſent conteſt. With the ſame men, therefore, it is obvious that the ſame meaſures will prevail, nor can probability come nearer certainty than in the preſent inſtance."

But I ſee the ſpeech will prove too tedious and irkſome to be given at full length; ſuffice it to ſay, that he ended with foretelling that the Spaniards muſt declare war againſt us in conſequence of the Family Compact; that the Dutch, tired out

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with our continual breach of treaties, would at laſt do the ſame; and that the northern powers, with the haughty Virago at their head, would be obliged to attack us to protect their ſubjects from our continual piracies at ſea; piracies for which we had no other excuſe but our own neceſſity and convenience; which we thought muſt plead more ſtrongly with the Dutch and them than their own intereſt and the laws of nature and civilized nations. At laſt, ſaid he, when our miſconduct, obſtinacy, and arrogance had juſtly humbled us to the duſt, we ſhall, with the pious Duché, and politic Johnſton at our head, tell all the world, as they did America, that after we had for years inſulted, robbed, and murdered them, as ſoon as we are unable to do them any fur-

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ther miſchief, they are to ſhake hands with us, and reſtore us to the power of doing ſo whenever our known taſte for war and deſolation may prompt us; and aſſure them, that if they do not do ſo at our requiſition, we ſhall do an impoſſibility againſt them; that is, believe and declare them to be a viler more raſcally ſet of miſcreants than we have hitherto done.

He added, that theſe arguments and claims to American ſubmiſſion, which had ſuch weight with all thoſe in the nation, who thought themſelves moderate men, reminded him of the plea of a robber; who being diſarmed and got under, inſiſted upon having his arms reſtored to him, and to be ſet at liberty, upon promiſing not to rob

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the ſame perſon again that day; and when this modeſt requeſt was not complied with, beſtowed abuſe as liberally upon his captors, as we have upon the Americans, aſſerting, that they were miſcreants, devoid of honour, truth, juſtice, reaſon, and piety; becauſe they would not immediately truſt their property, liberty, and lives in the hands of thoſe who had ſhewn no regard to any of them, upon the faith of an Engliſh act of parliament, which might be repealed in twelve months by the ſame legiſlature, who had broke through all their engagements with Ireland, another dependant country, as they are pleaſed to call it.

The Mancheſterians bore this attack upon their paſſions, and even intereſt, better than might have been expected,

expected, hoping that he would ſoon come to a cloſe, and that by their numbers they would be enabled to bear him down at laſt. But he was not ſo eaſily tired, and proceeded.

"When I hear this whole nation unanimous in abuſing the French, Spaniards, and Dutch; in ſhort, every people upon earth, as if there was not one honeſt man among them; though I am convinced the quantity of virtue and goodneſs is the ſame in every land; and when I ſee them look upon every rival in trade or dominion as a natural enemy, and cordially hate him as ſuch, I bleſs God that I was not born in England, but in poor deſpiſed Ireland; as there muſt come a time when in preſence of the Supreme, the oppreſſor

ſor ſhall hang down his head before thoſe he has wronged; when a judgement very different from the fooliſh opinion of the world, will be paſſed upon the oppreſſed and his haughty overbearing tyrant. But I forget that you beſtow the ſame virulent abuſe in a ſtill greater meaſure upon one another. A courtier deſcribing a patriot, and he in turn a courtier, as the greateſt raſcal upon earth; to which I ſhall only ſay what a friend of mine did to a pair of theſe gentlemen, who for hours had beſpattered one another in a public aſſembly, that he ſo greatly eſteemed them both, as to be convinced in his conſcience that each had ſaid nothing but the truth of the other.

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The merchants were now a ſecond time put to flight, and as I thought my friend had gone vaſtly too far, I could not avoid ſaying a great deal to him to be more moderate whilſt I continued in his company; if not on account of his own intereſt, at leaſt for my ſatisfaction; which I knew would have ſome weight with his generous, diſintereſted temper. As one thing which I ſaid gave riſe to a new harrangue. I ſhall endeavour to give you it in my next, though I fear I have already tired you with his politics.

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LETTER LVII.

Mancheſter.

HOW can you, my dear friend, ſaid I, ſet your own opinion ſo often in oppoſition to the ſentiments of the whole nation, as to its great and illuſtrious rulers; for were I even inclined to give up Lord North, have we not the induſtrious magnanimous Sandwich to preſide over our navy? And are nor even the enemies of Lord Manſfield agreed as to his ſhining abilities? ſhall you not then be accuſed juſtly of arrogance in the extreme? whatever may be your opinion of his uprightneſs, in conſtantly depreciating his great talents, which have forced

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an unwilling judgment in his favour from the whole body of a people whoſe privileges he has ſtudiouſly endeavoured to curtail. My friend anſwered nearly as follows :

One principal reaſon for my thinking meanly of his abilities is this very coincidence of opinion in his favour. Do not indulge your laughter, but hear me out. Were this nation in a great and flouriſhing ſituation, reſpected abroad, and united at home, I ſhould ſubſcribe implicity to its ſagacity in the choice of the men to whom it confided its intereſts in any one department ; I ſay to whom it confides, for I am certain, notwithſtanding the power, and what is much greater, the corrupt influence of the crown, the honeſt people of this nation have ſtill ſufficient ſtrength to overturn the preſent miniſtry, did they

not in general it them as virtuous and as wiſe as any thing they could ſubſtitute in their room. When therefore I ſee the nation for twenty years gain nothing from misfortunes but obſtinacy in error, until at laſt with a diminition of empire and increaſe of burdens, from being the moſt reſpected and feared upon the face of the earth, it is laughed at, deſpiſed, or hated by every foreign power; and is diſtracted at home; I am convinced the people at large have loſt that diſcernment and wiſdom, which formerly carried them triumphant to wealth, fame, and power. This being the caſe, which that it is, I call all our misfortunes to witneſs, I ſhall ever ſuppoſe that the men whom it moſt highly applauds, are like itſelf, moſt deficient

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in underſtanding; for the judgment of a multitude of equally weak men will ever be at leaſt as weak as that of any one of its individuals, nay perhaps more ſo, at leaſt more ſteadily and uniformly ſo, as the blunder of any one perſon thinking favourably of real abilities, will ever be corrected by the perfection of weakneſs in the whole body. Does any one ſuppoſe that Rome, Conſtantinople, or Jeruſalem, about the time of their deſtruction, did not think themſelves poſſeſſed of as wiſe men as any other country or age ever produced. Nor were they awakened from this dream but by their total downfall. Our happineſs is in many things increaſed by that principle in human nature, which makes the generality of mankind conſider

the preſent age as the moſt enlightened, and the preſent men, whom it knows and favors, as the wiſeſt and beſt that ever adorned the world. There is not a petty ſtate in Germany or Italy which does not think itſelf poſſeſſed of the greateſt lawyer, phyſician, divine, and politician that is, or ever was: every laird's houſe in Scotland is the greateſt palace, and every oak there, though no thicker than my leg, is the greateſt tree in the univerſe, to ſome people in its neighbourhood.

But if this negative argument from our uniformity in error, againſt our judgment in his favour be not admitted, let me aſk in whet one great national or conſtitutional point, has he ſhewn diſcernment? I might adduce many

many where his head and heart ſeem both to have failed him; but deciding with ſome cleverneſs a few paultry cauſes between under-writers, horſe-jockies, &c. is accepted as a proof of great underſtanding and integrity. Qui vult decipi decipiatur.

So much for our great and learned judge. As to your other paragon Lord Sandwich, I would willingly paſs him by; but where ſo much may be ſaid to open your eyes, it would be a pity not to beſtow a little time upon him, eſpecially as an enquiry into his merits may be of ſome uſe to your judgment, tho' the lords wiſely thought it too deep a matter for them, and therefore, like

Rabelais judge, decided the matter by a fortunate throw of the dice.

The advantages ariſing from our inſular ſituation, has long opened the eyes of the whole nation to the importance of our navy. By it we are ſaved from the almoſt irreſiſtible attacks of thoſe tremendous ſtanding armies, which are kept on foot by the great powers of Europe, and whilſt a little battle loſt ſeems to endanger the ſafety of other empires, we hear of it in Britain with as much compoſure as of the loſs of any game of chance, being certain that the victors cannot march into our territories. This tranquility ſo eminently enjoyed here, even whilſt we are engaged in the moſt extenſive and bloody wars, gives a ſtability to our councils, and ſucceſs

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to our enterprizes, which can never be enjoyed by thoſe empires which may be attacked in all quarters. With what care then we ſhould guard this invulnerable armour by which we are protected. Every wiſe miniſter has made our navy his firſt object, and even the weakeſt, though he may be in reality deſtroying, yet muſt keep up the appearance of paying it great attention. Should, therefore, a firſt miniſter in this department be ſo weak or wicked as to wiſh the ruin of the fleet; ſhould he at the ſame time have cunning enough to conceal both his deſire and his endeavours to bring it about, and ſhould the body of the people be ſo inſenſible of their ſituation, and ſo inclinable to be duped, as to continue

placing confidence in him, what miſchiefs may we not reaſonably expect?

Let us explore our preſent ſituation, without arrogant boldneſs or ſlothful timidity, which fears to open its eyes, leſt it might happen to diſcover its ſtate to be worſe than it took for granted, without the moſt diſtant enquiry, or ſhadow of proof, becauſe agreeable to its hopes and wiſhes. To what has our ſuperiority at ſea over other nations been owing? Not ſurely to our timber and cordage, though from our Gazettes it appears that our admiralty believe ſo. Far be ſuch trifling precarious ſecurity from the minds of all real Britons. 'Tis that ſteady unconquerable ſpirit of our ſeamen and commanders, which has hitherto obliged our enemies to defend their own coaſts inſtead

ſtead of inſulting our's. But I am ſorry to ſay this ſpirit has been of late much attacked by thoſe in power. Our excellent miniſtry ſeem to think that our navy officers ought to be tigers in battle with our enemies; but obſequeous, fawning ſpaniels to the Lords of the Admiralty, who may treat them with as much inſolence or duplicity at theſe lords think convenient. As our preſent commanders are not of this ſtamp, I fear things will go on badly under Lord Sandwich, until men are created for the purpoſe, there never having been a time as yet, when ſuch beings exiſted in the preſent world. It is, perhaps, owing to his lordſhip's not being conſulted when the world was made ſo ill adapted to his purpoſes, that the French fight with as much

much bravery as ourſelves: but when his catches and glees are cut into paſteboard figures, and ſent to command our ſquadrons, matters may go better with us, and the French be compelled to deſiſt from inſulting us in the channel.

LET.

LETTER LVIII.

Mancheſter.

WOULD not theſe harrangues of my friend entitle him to the name of Orator at Coachmaker's Hall, the Robinhood, or any of the other diſputing ſocieties in London; where politics and religion, law and belles lettres are canvaſſed with equal advantage to the ſtate and edification to the hearers. "What think you, ſaid he, of my putting in a claim to the chair? by broaching a ſufficient number of ſelfiſh raſcally ſentiments learned at Edinburgh College, I ſhall be backed by all the Scotch members of the club, with their juſt deference and conſtant bowing and cringing

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to every one in power; and when they have given but the word will not every member of the aſſociated livery, every hero who is enliſted for the purpoſe of hunting down truth, honeſty, patriotiſm, and virtue, ſtep forward with their votes in my favour? even their noted chairman muſt give place to my ſuperior hypocriſy and turpitude.

I ſhould, however, have ſcarcely introduced my friend to your acquaintance, had he been only a hot-headed politician, who, like the patriots of the preſent day, ſacrificed his own intereſt to zeal for the public cauſe, for which they are juſtly requited with the ſcorn and deteſtation of that public, who finding no virtue in itſelf is moſt heinouſly offended with all pre-

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tences to it in an individual. My friend, independent of his other qualities poſſeſſes a proper quantity of hatred to war, and thoſe moſt deteſtable of all men the officers and ſoldiers who carry it on; wretches whom every human being ſhould ſincerely abominate; whom every Chriſtian ſhould avoid worſe than famine, or the plague; for ſure I am, the worſt of ſpecies of beſtiality, nay the ſuppoſed ſin againſt the holy Ghoſt are venal and trifling in their conſequences to the taking and keeping a military oath. Shame, ſhame, on our clergy, who are continually preaching only againſt the peccadillos of our nature; and, inſtead of exclaiming againſt this horrid crime, are daily inſulting the beneficent Father of the Univerſe, by requeſting him

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to go forth with our fleets and armies, and give them victory over our enemies. All the blaſphemies that have ever been invented are not equal to this authoriſed prayer.

Theſe, you will eaſily ſee are my friends ideas; but hear him out upon the ſubject.

The duty inculcated in the ſixth commandment, is ſo ſtrongly implanted in the breaſt of every individual, that a revelation from heaven ſeems ſcarcely neceſſary to enforce it. Who that conſiders man as a rational being, could ſuppoſe that his entering into civil ſociety, ſhould become the means of deſtroying his ſpecies? Who that ſees the affectionate links of parents, brethren and children, which connect

connect him with the world, can ſuppoſe ſuch ties incapable of withholding him from the moſt flagrant and unprovoked outrages? Who that views that eaſe with which his heart melts at the ſight of woe, that indignation with which he is fired at cruelty, and that precipitation, with which he plunges even into danger to ſave his ſinking fellow-creature, can imagine that the chief diſtreſſes of man proceed from his fellow-creatures? Yet, ſtrange as it may ſeem, the plague and famine, together with all the crouds of diſtempers and natural evils, make not up a thouſandth part the miſery which we daily inflict on each other; and that even without the inſtigation of reſentment, malice, or any bad paſſion whatever.

To

For what indeed are all the trifling murders and enormities committed through private reſentment, compared with the miſchiefs of only one campaign. To make this propoſition plain, let us diſpaſſionately view war, with its cauſes and conſequences; and in doing this, let us take care to avoid being dazzled by falſe heroiſm, or miſled by the prejudices of education. How many having early read a pleaſing account of Alexander's battles, never afterwards learn to conſider him in a true light, as the moſt infamous butcher of his ſpecies? How many has the ſplendor of Cæſar's victories blinded to the moſt deteſtable of all crimes, the enſlaving and murdering of his own countrymen?

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What is there in man that ſhould make him more deſtructive to his own ſpecies than the moſt ſavage beaſts of the foreſt? It is that infatuation with which communities give up their opinions or conſciences to the direction of one baſely intereſted man, arming his otherwiſe feeble hands with the ſtrength of a whole nation. Would they once conſider that they firſt united in ſociety for the preſervation of mankind, and not for its deſtruction; could it be poſſible for kings, lords, lawyers, or prieſts to lead them out, and inſpire them with a ſpirit of vengeance againſt men whom they never ſaw, and who never injured them. O ye rulers of the earth what have ye not to anſwer for! Ye whom nations chuſe, that under your guidance they

may enjoy peace and ſafety; and who, nevertheleſs, ſeem to have no other employment but to ſpread deſolation over the face of the globe. But ye endeavour to cloke your deſigns under virtuous or plauſible pretences; every one of you trumpets forth your own mercy, juſtice, and benevolence; and the ſimple people, duped by your words, and the equally ſincere proteſtations of your courtiers, never look to your univerſally oppoſite actions. They could not be ſo deceived, would you but declare your joy in war and havock; and that you love it for its own ſake, and not to bring religion or morality to cloke a thing the moſt oppoſed to them that ever was invented by the devil, or his imps the majority of the rulers of this world.

Let

Let us read the moſt elegant defences of war, there we ſhall find a hero leaping foremoſt into the trench, or marching up to a battery of cannon where almoſt certain death awaits him, and diſregarding every danger in defence of his country. Theſe are compliments only fitted to fooliſh principles of humanity, and proper to actuate the deſpiſed militia and trained bands. But let us take the heroic ſoldier, and not be afraid to follow him through all his atchievements, beginning his career with a ſolemn oath to cut the throat of every man whom he is ordered by his ſuperiors to murder; he for months applies himſelf to learn the methodical art of taking lives. His own he learns to deſpiſe, becauſe I ſuppoſe in his goſpel the Supreme has given him power

to lay it down when he chuſes. Having thus trampled upon the ſtrongeſt tie of human nature, without which the world could not exiſt a moment, he tranſports himſelf ſome thouſands of miles, to attack peaceful farmers and citizens; who never injured him. He marches up to a battery of cannon, in order to plunge his bayonet into ſome worthy father of a family; or to give the moſt poignant affliction to a tender wife or affectionate ſiſters; he leaps into a trench to be the firſt to ſtorm and raze a town filled with thoſe whom the Deity has commanded him to love as bretheren, but his king and rulers to burn their houſes and cut their throats. If he be oppoſed by a militia, raiſed to defend every thing they hold dear, he deſpiſes them, becauſe they retain a

love

love for humanity, every ſpark of which he muſt get rid of, or quit his profeſſion; and becauſe they have not ſerved an apprenticeſhip to the diabolical trade of deſtruction. In ſhort, he derives his glory from his promptneſs to follow his leaders in miſchiefs, and the number of his murders.

LETTER LIX.

Manchester.

MY friend is quite in the penteroso to day, having received intelligence from London that his partnership with the fair one is broken off. Her father has found out the affair, or at least suspects it in part, and has removed her to a place where her lover cannot come at her. I thought this a good opportunity to enter my protest against such connections, and to endeavour to wean him from following them.

I know, said I, that it would be futile to shew how improper these pursuits are, how injurious to society, and how detrimental to your own interest. Gentlemen who engage

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in them, are always too warm in conſtitution, and too much led by momentary objects to ſuffer cool reaſon or colder prudence and foreſight, to chill their glowing paſſions. But to theſe very paſſions I wiſh to addreſs myſelf. Let me then paint to you the object of your preſent diſtreſs, driven from a father and mother, whom ſhe reſpects and loves; from relations, friends, and acquaintances whom ſhe eſteems; immured with a ſet of old matrons, whoſe tedious converſation makes duller the dark heavy hours of her ſeparation from you. I ſay nothing of the diſtreſs of her friends, of a father, who almoſt conſiders himſelf without hope, ſhe being his only child, and who perhaps often waters his pillow with thoſe ſecret tears which the falſe delicacy of

the world will not permit openly to manly affliction; a mother, whoſe only companion ſhe was, and who now ſpends her ſolitary days in comfortleſs grief; and her nights in ſtill more exquiſite anguiſh, being conſtrained to conceal her feelings, leſt ſhe may aggrevate thoſe of a tender huſband; and relations, who all looked with pleaſure on the budding beauties and accompliſhments of their fair ſenſible friend, and who promiſed themſelves, from her ripened years, a harveſt of ſocial delight in the connections ſhe might form by matrimony. All theſe I paſs by, well knowing how little effect they muſt have on him who never was a huſband or a father. I ſhall only then dwell upon her whoſe ſorrows you are not yet unfeeling enough to deſpiſe.

piſe. View her then in her priſon, for ſuch I call every houſe where diſtruſt rules, not permitted to enjoy the healthful air and exerciſe, but when attended by the watchful eye of one of her duenna's, and at home confined to the dreary company of crabbed age, perhaps venting reproaches upon her incautious youth; or what is ſtill more inſupportable to her, depreciating your worth, and inſulting all thoſe qualities for which ſhe loves you next to adoration. Yet this is a ſlight miſery compared to what ſhe feels when alone. The paſſing ſcene of worldly things does not then intervene between her and her diſtracting thoughts. No external object, however horrid and deformed, to lend its wiſhed aſſiſtance, and prevent the view of her own grief-deſolated boſom. There

ſhe

ſhe perceives all a wild waſte of anguiſh and deſpair. There ſhe ſees the loſs of the eſteem and confidence of parents whom ſhe tenderly loved, of relations whom ſhe honoured, and friends whom ſhe reſpected and valued, the blaſting of her wiſhes to confer her hand and heart for life upon ſome deſerving amiable man, by whom her fondneſs would be paid by admiration next to idolatry; the ruin of her hopes to bleſs him and her parents with an offspring amid whoſe affectionate care age would ſteal on him without any note of his changing producing hand, except in the calmneſs of the paſſions and virtuous tranquility and happineſs of the mind; and even more than theſe, the whiteneſs of her virgin honour ſullied by the foul mouth of ſuſpicion or black cenſure; and her fame

the

the cruel ſport of taverns, coffee-houſes, and tea-tables. All theſe torments ſhe feels for one whoſe ſight and correſpondence ſhe is debarred; nay, ſhe is denied the only poſſible alleviation to her tortures, which would yet be ſupportable could ſhe have aſſurances of your fidelity and attachment, and that her ſufferings were not indured, as it is hourly inculcated to her, for an ungrateful, worthleſs man. This doubt alſo muſt to her appear a certainty; as now that ſhe is wakened from the delightful dream of love and happineſs, every object will appear diſtorted and darkened by her own anguiſh and deſpair. One circumſtance beſides may ſerve to the full completion of her miſery; which, as you have not entruſted me with the extent of your connection with her,

you'll

you'll pardon me for mentioning, that is, the poſſibility of her pregnancy. This alone is neceſſary to finiſh a picture, whoſe horrors hell itſelf could ſcarcely add to. Abandoned by her relations, deſpiſed by the world, without friend or virtuous companion, where is ſhe to ſeek refuge for herſelf and innocent, but univerſally inſulted babe; with you ſhe will ſcarcely take ſhelter, now that ſhe has loſt all ſelf-eſteem, and in her own opinion rendered herſelf unworthy of you. No ſhe will rather by a pardonable ſuicide, rid both herſelf and offspring of all the numberleſs calamities which unavoidably follow the indulgence of illcit pleaſure.

I was proceeding to his own figure in the picture, with that of his

his miſerable progeny ſhould he be curſed with any, and intended finiſhing the whole with a ſketch of connubial happineſs, where every joy is heightened, and every care leſſened by participation; where the ſouls are encircled together by love, and its dear mutual pledges, a promiſing offſpring; where age makes perfect the remembrance of paſt endearments, by blotting out every other record of time; and where the hour of death is rendered happy by the near proſpect of a ſpeedy junction in the realms of univerſal bliſs and love. But I was prevented from going on by my friend's audible ſobs, and on looking I perceived him drowned in a torrent of tears. I now found that his regard for the lady was much greater than he had led me to believe;

lieve; and that like moſt people in worldly matters, he knew her value only by her loſs. But as I would not unſay a ſyllable that I had uttered, and as I ſaw his grief too great to bear the inſpection of company, I left him to thoſe feelings which I honoured in him, and which I heartily wiſh to every debauchee in the nation.

LET-

LETTER LX.

Manchester.

AS I had resolved to form a judgment for myself as to every thing I could see in this tour, I set off alone to make the circuit of Manchester. Where a traveller is led by the hand through a town, he spies objects thro' the medium of another's eyes, who, besides his local prejudices in favour of the grandeur of the spot of his residence, is mostly ill qualified to judge, having had no opportunity of making any comparison of it with other places.

"Pray, Sir, would you chuse to see the inside of the church?" I knew this

this to be a civil way in the ſexton to get a ſhilling; as I ſaw nothing very tempting on the outſide, and having ſo lately been in York-minſter, one of the largeſt Gothic buildings in the kingdom, I declined the offer. I changed my mind, however. I did not give you a deſcription of the cathedral of York, becauſe it differs in nothing but its great extent from a number of Gothic buildings you have ſeen, where the ornaments are badly executed, and heaped upon each other with a diſguſting profuſion. In viewing more minutely the outſide of the old church at Mancheſter, I was ſtruck with a vaſt variety of droll monkey-like faces in every conceiveable form of grinning, which decorate or rather deform the walls; I therefore returned to my civil ſexton to aſk what

they

they meant? "They are devils, Sir." "Devils! (ſaid I) repeating the word with aſtoniſhment; what buſineſs have devils here? Is it to affright people from coming to the church? Beſides, they all look happy and humourous; how ſhould devils come by ſuch countenances? Thou can'ſt not anſwer me; pray then ſhew me the inſide of the church, perhaps I may find a ſolution there." The inſide had nothing remarkable in it; except the gloom every where ſpread by the Gothic windows, which might be called a darkneſs viſible.

How does it come to paſs, ſaid I to myſelf, that the miniſters of moſt religions have delighted in making their places of worſhip dark, gloomy, and uncomfortable. That the prieſts,

of a falſe one ſhould endeavour to govern the world by fear and not by love, appears natural; but that the teachers of Chriſtianity ſhould be ſo far at variance with morality, and more ſtill with the exquiſitely beauteous pattern of their own religion, as to to ſet it forth in a tremendouſly hideous light, ſhocks me much. This would be a tedious abſtruſe ſubject; my friend gets rid of the difficulty by ſaying that love never entered into a monk or a warrior's creed.

LET-

LETTER LXI.

Mancheſter.

HAVING ordered dinner for myſelf and friend, I ſtrolled out, reſolving to call upon two ladies with whom I had been formerly acquainted. On my entering the houſe they flew to me with that cordiality which leaves ceremony at a wide unfriendly diſtance. The mother and a third ſiſter became inſtantly acquainted with me; and the brother, before I had well taken a chair, had given me an invitation to dinner, not by aſking the queſtion, but by taking it for granted, in that confidential tone and manner that exceeds all artificial

politeneſs: Ye graces of hypocriſy and Cheſterfield, if ye were here ye would be out of countenance: one atom of good-nature and friendſhip is worth you all! I told him I was engaged. Could I not be with him in the evening? That I had alſo moſt unfortunately promiſed for, and his ſiſters could tell him I made it a point never to break my word. I muſt then ſpend the whole of the next day with him, and he would ſhew me every thing remarkable in Mancheſter. Here again I was obliged to give a refuſal, having determined to leave town next morning. His evident chagrin gave me great pain. That perſon muſt have no feeling who is inſenſible of pain when denying to gratify the wiſhes of a friend. To get rid of my uneaſineſs and embarraſſment as quickly as poſſible, I told

told him that I had two hours diſengaged at tea-time that afternoon, and moſt chearfully would I dedicate them to him, as a ſmall acknowledgment of gratitude for his kindneſs and attention. I found my heart lighter the moment I had finiſhed, it was an offering paid at the altar of friendſhip. The kindly glow of good-nature which inſtantly lighted up his countenance, ſhewed in the ſtrongeſt manner, how acceptable it was to him.

LETTER LXII.

Manchester.

I HAD ſcarcely left this temple of friendſhip and hoſpitality, when I met with a French and German gentleman; who being on a tour through the kingdom, requeſted my friend's company and mine as far as we went the ſame way. This we readily agreed to, and I propoſed myſelf ſome pleaſure from the manner in which our various cuſtoms will ſtrike. Their miſtakes are pretty apparent to me already.

The German is a diſciple of De Lolmes, and thinks our law and con-

conſti-

ſtitution the beſt that ever were framed. He has a law buſineſs to tranſact, and imgines that he muſt apply to the houſe of commons. As he wiſhes to form a party there, which he hears to be the ſure way of ſucceeding, he means to addreſs his petition to the eight great reſpectable ſouthern counties which ſend above two hundred members to parliament. The eight pitiful northern counties, which only ſend a third of the number, he will treat with the contempt they deſerve.

Nothing can equal his rapture as to the pleaſure he will feel when paſſing the great and fertile county of Cornwall, or even Wiltſhire and Dorſetſhire for having ſeen Yorkſhire and Lancaſhire, he conceives the former to be far beyond them in every reſpect as

they are in the number of members ſent to the houſe of commons. From this criterion, which he deems infallible, on account of the known excellence of our conſtitution, I cannot perſuade him that London is one tenth the ſize of Hamburgh; and that the county of Middleſex is only like a petty pariſh in Weſphalia. Or, if it be true that they are large and opulent, the inhabitants muſt be vile miſcreants, and therefore treated juſtly with neglect by our unerring legiſlature.

I promiſe you and myſelf ſome entertainment from his miſtakes in the remainder of my tour, and as the French gentleman is not without his oddities, hope to render my letters in future more amuſing.

LET-

LETTER LXIII.

Mancheſter.

"O DEATH! thou caterer for the grave; had'ſt thou no leſs precious morſel for its banquet. No prince fated with and therefore deſpiſing the joys of this world. No inflexible patriot impatient of his country's wrongs; no philoſopher ever prepared for its ſpend-thrift table; that thou muſt feed its ravening jaws with beauty and excellence next to heavenly?" Theſe were my words, in throwing down a newſpaper, which gave an account of my Lancaſhire beauty's death. This was the third country paper I had looked into for a great length of time, and

and in each did I meet with the loſs of a perſon dear to me. In one, the kindeſt guide that ever thoughtleſs youth found in age and experience: my hoſpitable friend, my literary benefactor. In the other I loſt —— good heaven! how can I deſcribe him?——In his houſe I ſpent my vacant ſchool-boy hours in bliſs tranſcending the lot of that happieſt period of a happy life. In his ſprightly ſociety age forgot its infirmities, ſickneſs became chearful, and even pain and mortal anguiſh found a pauſe. His company was courted, his loſs deplored by a whole nation; how much then by me! Never ſhall I forget our final parting, when after a week ſpent in mirth and joy, which cold clay formed hearts cannot conceive, he exhauſted, to procure my longer

ſtay,

ſtay, every excuſe that his own fertileſt of all lively imaginations could invent; and at laſt pretended a long liſt of ailments, for which my advice was wanted; none had he, but thoſe I felt equally with himſelf, the pangs of taking leave.

LET-

LETTER LXIV.

Manchester.

I HAVE already been at Harrowgate, and am now going to view, taste, and perhaps bathe in the wells at Buxton and Matlock, which I esteem worth a visit, though not so whimsically remarkable as the fountain of the sun mentioned by Herodotus, Diodorus, and others, on account of its being warm at night and cold in the day; or according to Pliny, being sweet at the one season and bitter at the other. The Derbyshire waters have performed more cures than the fountain of Linus, which was said to prevent women from mis-

miſcarrying, and therefore deſerved more to be celebrated than thoſe of Aganippe and Caſtalia, the intoxicating ſprings of poor water-drinking poets. By the way, before I begin my watery regimen, do you imagine that liquor ever inſpired the poets who ſung ſo much in its praiſe? for my own part, I ſhould as ſoon ſuppoſe it would make a Palliſer generous and gallant, or a Keppel ill-natured and revengeful. It muſt have been the more enlivening juice of the grape that had this noble effect; at leaſt ſo my friend ſays, and our German companion ſeems inclined to believe him by the devotion which he pays it.

LETTER LXV.

Manchester.

DO you consider, my dear Sir, the consequences of your request for leave to publish my letters. I shall certainly be condemned by all the reviewers, who will call them a paltry, ill digested imitation of Rabelais, without his wit; of Cervantes without his good sense; and of Sterne without his pathetic touches. They will be stiled a set of confused rhapsodies, a farago of nonsense; or as the French would say, Beaucoup des Sottises. Believe me I shall be tried in their fiery furnace of criticism, heated red-hot by Johnson or Macpherson; and shall be found all

all alloy without a ſingle atom of ſterling merit. I ſhall be pointed at as I walk the ſtreets, by every pettifogger in office, for a patriot; the term of greateſt reproach, and equal to all the names vituperious that were ever invented for heretics by the gentle orthodox clergy. I ſhall be libelled and ſlandered with falſe anecdotes in the Morning Poſt, pitied in the Gazetteer, cut up by a thouſand ſly paragraphs in the Morning Chronicle, and hunted down in every coffee-houſe by the hired haranguers for government. I ſhall be called Athieſt by all religious zealots, and ſhall have aſſociations of the Scotch againſt me, with all their wiſe præſes's at their head, who will petition parliament againſt tolerating me, in like manner, as they uſed the poor Iriſh and Roman Catholics.

My

My friend informs me that I ſhall be brought before a judge, and tried for a libel, or ſome other crime rendered now indefinite by the ſkill and caſuiſtry of Attorney Generals and King's Bench judges. There he ſays, I ſhall be betrayed by ſome Murray, who will ſit upon the bench to render it a the tool of corruption and ſlavery; like poor Mansfield-betrayed attorney whoſe unrevenged ghoſt yet calls upon our Scotch-ridden nation for vengeance.

Then conſider, my dear Sir, what will become of my maſk. At a time that every one ſucceeds in proportion as he wears a thick or thin maſk, how imprudent was it to ſay, a word againſt them? It was ſlandering all the rich, the great, the powerful, and therefore all the good men in the nation,

nation. My maſk will be torn, beſpattered, and bedevilled wherever it appears, worſe than even honeſt Sterne's hobby-horſe: beſides, I have the audacity to think that honeſt poverty, patriotiſm, and philanthrophy, are ſometimes to be regarded, when they are all known to be avoided at preſent with as much care as the plague or famine.

Mammon, you ſay alone reigns, attended by his guards the Cheſterfieldian *Graces*, bringing in his train hypocriſy, adulation, and a complete knowledge of the world; and dare naked merit attempt to ſhew its face in London? forbid it all ye quacks and impoſtors in politics, religion, law, phyſic, and every art, every ſcience wherein money is made the ſole ob-

ject by the loweſt reptiles in the creation, who by theſe means lord it ſecurely over diſregarded Genius. Can you then adviſe me to deſpiſe, nay fly in the face of this ſuppoſed god of Londoners idolatry.

I am travelling through a country, the proſpects of which are familiar to the eyes of all thoſe who will read theſe letters; and the manners of its inhabitants agree perfectly with their own, what circumſtances could I then meet with to embelliſh and give ſufficient variety to the public entertainment? I have no glaciers of Switzerland, nor palaces of Italy to paint, no kings, generals, or even philoſophers to deſcribe or invent anecdotes of Having little matter but what I drew from my own breaſt, I was obliged

for

for your entertainment to dreſs it in an uncommonly whimſical manner, but will this intereſt any one but the partial friend to whoſe heart the wildeſt effuſions of a boſom companion are ever dear.

Notwithſtanding all this, if you are obſtinate in your opinion, do with my letters as you have ever done with the writer, juſt what ſeemeth good in your eyes; remembering always that the moſt difficult taſk, next to knowing ourſelves or our own works, is to form an impartial judgment of the productions of our particular friends, or declared enemies.

Reflect likewiſe upon the miſtimeing of the publication. When we are all engaged in ſupporting a pious humane war againſt the Americans, and a juſt and neceſſary one againſt the

French, who are our natural enemies, becauſe they live on the other ſide of a ſmall herring pond; whilſt we are buſied in plundering the Spaniards, Dutch, and every neutral power; having fully ſatisfied ourſelves that the law of nations means nothing more than Engliſhmen's neceſſity or convenience, do you think any one will read my lucubrations? The patriots are too much in earneſt to laugh at a time the nation has ſo much cauſe for ſorrow, and the courtiers too much in earneſt in purſuit of plunder, to join in any laugh which is not raiſed for the purpoſe of deſtroying the truth and juſtice, but above all the ſenſe and reflection of the nation.

But

But if after a fair allowance for theſe drawbacks, you ſtill continue your reſoltuion of publiſhing them, take the following dedication, written by my friend, on my telling him your deſign, and my want of ſomething prefatory to the public, or ſome illuſtrious patron.

DEDICATION.

To the Manes of DEMOCRITUS, RABELAIS, SERVANTES, and STERNE.

GENTLE SPIRITS,

A POOR unfortunate author begs leave, with all that humility which becomes him, when addreſſing beings of your ſuperior rank, to lay his works at your feet. As to himſelf, though he expects much pleaſure in a perſonal interview with you, he begs leave to defer it as long as poſſible, were it only to ſee what laughable things will happen for a few years to come. He never had a patron in this world, nor does he ever expect one; not being poſſeſſed of that

that obſequious pliability ſo much commended by St. Paul, which makes a man all things to all men. No attachments therefore, unworthy of his affection to you detains him.

He ſuppoſes, however, that you will be glad to hear how matters go on in the world at preſent. It is much altered, ſince ſome of you laughed upon earth. Hypocriſy has long taken her flight from hence, and, with flattery and politeneſs in her train, fixed her reſidence in another world, not that one indeed, where you reſide. Plain ſincerity, religion without pomp or grimace, and honeſty without ſhew, have now the ſole ſway here. If a prime miniſter avers any thing to parliament, you may give him implicit credit, although he never ſpoke truth before, and if all his creatures praiſe

his honeſty, veracity, and candor, you may be convinced that he does not feel himſelf ſore upon theſe points, and therefore makes them raiſe this cry to deafen the clamour at his want of them all. If a placeman or penſioner go thro' with every miniſterial job, you may be certain he does it from a conſcientious conviction of their rectitude, and not from any mean motive of ſelf-intereſt. If, on the contrary, the duke of Richmond puts the nation on its guard when on the brink of deſtruction, he is an anglo Gallic villain, ſay the miniſterial pack, and who ſhall dare to diſbelieve them? If the Marquis of Rockingham, Lord Camden, Sir George Saville, &c. thro' their whole lives ſtudy the real good of the kingdom, and the intereſts

of

of the whole human race, they are miſcreants, ſay the ſame reſpectable authorities, who want to do great miſchief by uniformly acting as if there were ſuch things in the world as honour and patriotiſm. Theſe are the worſt of villains, becauſe by ſeeming benevolence, integrity, and the love of their country they gain the hearts of the ſilly populace, who fooliſhly believe that virtue exiſts upon earth, a thing known to be impoſſible by one hundred thouſand placemen, penſioners, and dependants of the court, who are ready if Lord North give the word, to take their oaths of it; being well accuſtomed to ſwallow oaths like food, or rather inſtead of prayers for their daily bread. And though theſe villainous patriots have acted ſo deviliſh cunningly for a ſeries of years, as

by

by no one word or action to have ſhewn themſelves for what they are, yet in the political creed of every one of the above one hundred thouſand immaculate perſonages they are raſcals, in like manner as in the belief of a courtezan, every woman is a whore.

After having given you a view of our wiſe politics, I intended ſketching an outline of our zealous religion, our equitable laws, and deciſive medicine; but 'tis an old adage, de mortuis nil niſi bonum. I ſhall therefore omit it, in obedience to a maxim of which I never ſaw the wiſdom or juſtice, as in what period of the world could we ſpeak of the bad actions of living perſons without danger to ourſelves or others. To me a dead character always appeared like a dead body

body in the hands of an anatomiſt, which he might lawfully diſſect, provided the demonſtration ſtrictly adhered to truth, juſtice, and uſeful inſtruction.

I muſt now bid you farewel, until we meet in the Elyſian fields; for I cannot believe any one that becauſe you laughed in this world, you are fit for nothing but crying in the next. And though one of you ſpoke ſo eloquently to ſhew that it was better to go to the houſe of mourning than the houſe of feaſting, in conformity to the ſaying of one who had palled his appetite by too full a meal of pleaſures here, yet I I truſt you have found the difference before this. What hurt indeed did a laughing man ever do? is he the breaker of the harmony of ſociety,

ciety, the fomenter of law-ſuits, the plunderer of another's property, the ſcandalizer of his fame, or the warlike butcher of his perſon? Theſe are the acts of grave and cool deliberate men. On the contrary, is he not charitable, generous, hoſpitable, and humane, without a ſingle grain in his compoſition of avarice, malice, envy, hatred, or all the dirty paſſions which every ſelfiſh man is ſo fond of indulging to the extreme in private, tho' he wiſhes to ſkreen them as much as poſſible from public view. Let me then ſpend my time here and hereafter with laughing people, and I ſhall not envy thoſe who dine with Lord North, or even the greateſt prince and hero in the world, the Chan of Tartary.

LET-

LETTER LXVI.

To MYSELF.

MY DEAREST FRIEND,

FOR ſuch in conformity to the the modes of letter-writing, I will venture to call you, although hitherto you have been my greateſt enemy, how can you always perſiſt in ſpeaking your mind, without diſguiſe. Do you not perceive that every one wears a maſk, how dare you then ſhew your own fool's face. You have beſides had the inſolence to ſet your ugly phiz againſt the court: take my word for it, you will never be employed by

by the king, or any good courtier: You ſpoke againſt the Jews, and may eat ham alone all your days, for you will never receive ſo much from them as will buy a ſingle fillet of veal to it; beſides, were you not afraid of the ſword of Goliah dexterouſly wielded by a little David, or the jaw-bone of an aſs uſed by a Sampſon-like critic. You have laughed at the zealots of all religions; pray what recommendation do you intend to carry to St. Peter for your admiſſion into that garden, where Chriſtians ſing pſalms to Turks kiſſing pretty girls to all eternity. You have ſpoken doubtfully of the Scotch, had you no dread of their reſentment, as every individual is ſore upon the ſlighteſt blemiſh being hinted at, although ever ſo truly and modeſtly, in one

one of his countrymen, and imparts the infection of his reſentment to his whole nation. You have ſpoken lightly of a Quaker, were you not afraid of being attacked by his whole fraternity, who, like a neſt of hornets, would ſting you to death; whilſt with their conſtant buz they prevented any one from hearing your defence, or ſuſpecting your cataſtrophe? Theſe, and many other things, you have done, not having your own intereſt, and the fear of worldlings before your eyes; and be aſſured when you are arraigned before a court-martial, you will not, Palliſer-like, have a nephew, nor four captains, who have upon oath declared their ſentiments in your favour, ſlipt ſlily in the way ſo as to make part of your judges. By this, which will be no far-

cical

nical court for the ſolemn mockery of juſtice, you will be found reprehenſible in every point: but as you have behaved gallantly, or rather cunningly in concealing your name, I think you muſt nevertheleſs be acquitted.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.